

IRA launches new bomb attack across Ulster

More than 20 bombs exploded through Northern Ireland last night, hitting trains, hotels and shops, and injuring eight people, some seriously. Earlier it became known that the Government has dropped its plan for convening a constitutional conference on the province next Monday, although Mr Humphrey Atkins hopes to meet local political leaders this week.

Constitutional talks plan postponed

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The Provisional IRA mounted a devastating bombing raid throughout Northern Ireland during last night's rush hour. More than 20 bombs exploded and eight people were injured, some seriously.

The bombers attacked trains, hotels and shops. The raids, in four counties between 5 pm and 6.30, emphasized the terrorists' policy of spectacular attacks preceded by a period of relative calm.

In a political development earlier it became known that the Government has finally abandoned hope of convening its constitutional conference on Northern Ireland at Stormont on Monday. It is urgently trying to find formula to save the political initiative from total collapse.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is attempting to meet all main political leaders this week to try to find a way around the critical question of the so-called Irish dimension, which is at the heart of the crisis.

The Northern Ireland Office insisted last night that the talks were postponed, not abandoned. But there certainly seems to be no prospect of getting them going before Christmas, and indeed very little hope after that.

The train from Lisburn was halted at Adelaid, by two explosions at 5.20. Another bomb exploded on the platform at Belfast Central Station after being carried off a train. Several city shops and supermarkets were attacked and three explosions devastated the Chester Park Hotel on the Antrim Road.

A bomb exploded in the main street of Ballymena, co. Antrim. Security personnel and civilians were slightly hurt when a car bomb went off at Omagh, co. Tyrone, and a bomb went off in the centre of Lurgan, injuring three people, one seriously.

A number of hoax calls stretched the Army, police and fire services to the limit. The raids emphasized yet again that despite intensive efforts by the security forces the Provisional IRA remains a potent terror force.

The last province-wide attack was in March and there were another just before last Christmas. It has been feared for some time that the IRA was preparing an offensive before the main Christmas shopping rush in its effort to disrupt the economic life of Northern Ireland.

Other incidents were the placing by two armed men of a bomb which exploded in a shop in Edge Lane, Newmarket, planted at Lemontes supermarket, Dungannon, the bombing of the Prudential Insurance Office at Britannia

Clash with EEC 'inevitable'

Britain is preparing for a clash with West Germany over payments to offset the foreign exchange costs of keeping British troops on the Rhine. In its last payment agreement the Labour Government signed away the right to ask for any more money. Mrs Thatcher's Government, however, insists on reopening the matter. When the 1977 agreement was signed, the cost of keeping British troops in Germany was £69m a year. The Germans agreed to pay only £125m over three years.

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Downturn ahead for US interest rates

Interest rates in the United States are believed to be going downwards after one leading bank announced a cut in its prime rate from 13% to 12% per cent. Expectations of falling rates overshadowed concern about the mounting Iran crisis on the New York Stock Exchange and led to a high volume of trading.

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Small companies' aid

The Government and major banks are expected to consider a scheme to provide guaranteed loans to small businesses. The plan will be discussed by the Conservative Small Businesses Committee's 150 MPs today.

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Honours for political services to be resumed

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday announced the overt resumption of awarding honours for party political services and the possible revival of hereditary peerages; the latter only for what the Prime Minister called "something of very great distinction". The forthcoming New Year's Honours list would include political awards.

There was no great surprise in the Commons yesterday at Mrs Thatcher's move, nor over the refusal to participate by Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition. Two Conservative Governments have now restored what two preceding Labour Governments abolished: the first abolition occurring in October 1966.

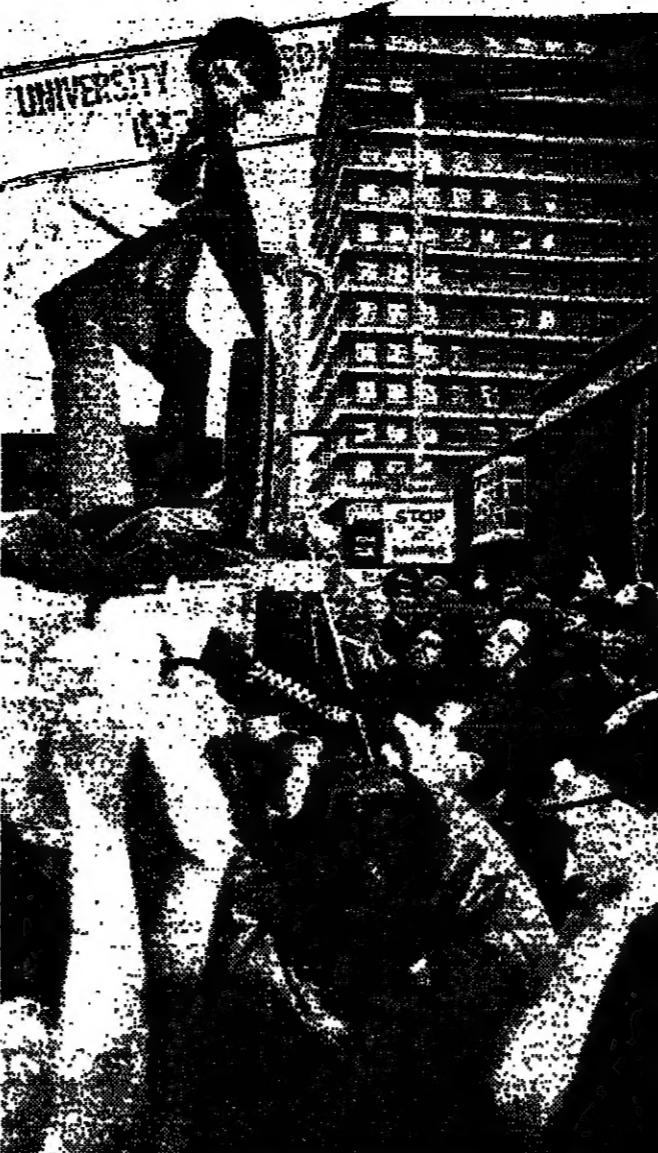
Since 1966 Governments have, of course, found ways of conferring political awards by another name. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said yesterday that the Liberals would accept political honours for outstanding service to democracy, but he did not want to see the honours become routine.

He told Mrs Thatcher, regarding her own troops, that honours ought "not to be used to dangle knighthoods in front of revolving backbenchers".

The more serious Labour criticism over the perpetuation of status for once found Mr Callaghan and Mr Tony Benn in near union. The former prime minister contended that there was a very good case for honours awards and in making them more valuable. He wanted a general review of the honours system, but the Prime Minister rejected that.

New safeguards in the scrutiny system announced by Mrs Thatcher included sending all honours recommendations for political and public services to the "political honours committee" before submission to the Queen for approval.

Leading article, page 13



Oil for hospital: After a day of talks, demonstrations and contingency planning for the mass evacuation of Charing Cross Hospital, a tanker loaded with heating oil was allowed through a picket line last night.

Earlier yesterday formal protests by doctors at the hospital and questions to the pickets about what they were doing quickly degenerated into shouting and denunciations. Patients were torn down and medical staff removed a notice from the roof of a hut used by pickets

(above). Later, a man was arrested.

The dispute involves members of both the engineering and electrical workers' unions, the AUEW and the EETPU.

Their 50 members struck on October 23, after two men were dismissed at a disciplinary hearing for refusing to install air filters. The management refused to reinstate the two men pending their appeal. The givers were on a work-to-rule basis at the time over reduction in staff.

Such a strike was officially

called off yesterday afternoon.

It is estimated the total reserves are between 700,000 million and 3,000,000 million barrels, but about 500,000 million barrels are held by the engineering

and electrical workers' executive.

Venezuela finds huge reserves of 'cheaper' oil

Montreal, Nov 26.—Venezuelan oil officials told a United Nations energy conference today that huge reserves of heavy oil have been located in Venezuela which can be produced below present world oil prices.

Mr Josep Barnes, a United Nations energy adviser and scientific secretary of the conference, told the Canadian Press News Agency that the figure is based on the proven conventional resources of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

According to a Venezuelan paper prepared for the conference, recoverable reserves of at least 500,000 million barrels have been found in the Orinoco oil belt, just north of the Orinoco River.

Venezuela, a member of Opec, would probably be in no hurry to exploit its newly-discovered reserves and thus undercut Opec prices, Mr Barnes said.

"It would require very heavy capital investment, and they could not be interested in production at a rate that would lower the world price," he added.

The Venezuelan state oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, reported that the cost of producing the oil would be relatively low \$5 to \$13 a barrel—compared with current Opec prices ranging from \$19 to \$23.

The Orinoco oil belt is probably the largest essentially untapped oil accumulation in the world", the report said. "The question now arises as to how much oil is contained in this oil belt, and how much may eventually be produced."

It is estimated the total reserves are between 700,000 million and 3,000,000 million barrels, but about 500,000 million barrels are held by the engineering

and electrical workers' executive.

Mr Barnes, who did not disclose the details of his talk with Mr Duffy, was strongly critical of Leyland management. It was they, he said, who

Union leaders seek urgent meeting with BL chairman

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are expected today to make official the BL strike over the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the Longbridge car plant steward's convenor.

This is the likely outcome of a meeting yesterday between Mr Terence Duffy, president of the AUEW, and Mr (Miss) Moira Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the dominant union at the motor firm.

Mr Duffy said after the talks at TUC headquarters in London that the conversation had strengthened my belief that it will be made official".

Both union leaders have also

asked for a meeting with Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, "as quickly as possible" to seek reinstatement of Mr Robinson and withdrawal of disciplinary action against three other shop stewards who signed a pamphlet critical of the company's "exploitation".

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Mr Evans, who did not disclose the details of his talk with Mr Duffy, was strongly critical of Leyland management. It was they, he said, who

had interrupted production. "If Mr Robinson had not been sacked, I am confident that BL workers would be working now."

The TGWU general secretary added that he had read the pamphlet and in his view it advocated what Mr Edwards wanted—an expansion of the British motor industry—but in a different direction". Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent writes: An attempt will be made tomorrow to contact the Labour Party to the campaign for the reinstatement of Mr Robinson. An emergency resolution calling for country-wide support by the party will be proposed at the meeting of the national executive by Mr Leslie Hickfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton.

Yesterday he marched with Mr Robinson at the head of a demonstration to re-instate Mr Robinson and withdraw the disciplinary action against three other shop stewards who signed a pamphlet critical of the company's "exploitation".

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had forced him to attend the meeting to "day of action" and "demonstration".

Such a march was organized yesterday morning, and was joined by many others from all over the country.

The march, unauthorised, passed a resolution calling on all sections of the Labour and trade union machine to organize maximum support for the fight to reinstate Mr Robinson and to declare a strike official.

More BL workers ignored the pickets and returned to work yesterday. At Longbridge, Mr Robinson's own plant, some 3,000 out of 14,000 union workers went in, and some engine and gearbox production was

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Salisbury agrees to British ceasefire plan

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Salisbury delegation accepted Lord Carrington's proposal for a ceasefire at the Rhodesian constitutional conference in London yesterday.

Dr Silas Msimangwana, deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, said, however, that many aspects of the British Government's proposals were "extremely unacceptable", particularly the submission of Salisbury's forces and police to the authority of a British governor.

In ordinary circumstances, he said, all the ceasefire proposals would be "an intolerable interference with the sovereignty of our state, the authority of our force commanders and the general functions of our security forces and police".

But in the light of their overriding desire to end the war, the Salisbury delegation after long and anxious consideration had decided to accept the proposals.

The decision was described by the British side as a step forward, although the Patriotic Front representatives were absent from the plenary session at which Sir Ian Gilmore was chairman in the absence of Lord Carrington in Brussels.

However, the Patriotic Front has asked to meet the British delegation today to discuss manners of "substance"—notably, their own principles for a ceasefire. It is also notable that Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, leaders of the Patriotic Front, have not rejected the British proposals as such.

That is, therefore, the compromise on which the Patriotic Front's nine-member executive has been working since 1975. Taiwan will remain a member, so both can be represented in next year's Moscow Olympic.

The compromise became possible when Peking asked for readmission, simultaneously dropping its long-standing insistence on Taiwan's expulsion.

The executive decided last month that an Olympic organization in China should be designated as the "Chinese Olympic Committee" and that in Taiwan renamed the "Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee" with the latter also to stop using the Taiwan flag and national anthem. Opposing this change, the present Taiwan Olympic Committee has initiated legal proceedings in Lausanne challenging the executive's position on the name, flag and anthem.

Chinese Olympic Committee officials have mentioned the likelihood of up to 300 Chinese athletes participating in the Moscow games in July, with the possibility of Chinese representation also at the Lake Placid winter Olympics in the United States in February.

China voted back into Olympic fold

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Nov 26

China formally returned to the ranks of the Olympic movement today, after a 21-year absence.

The 88 member countries of the International Olympic Committee voted, in a secret ballot, for China's readmission by 52 in favour to 17 against, one abstention and eight not returned.

Under a compromise on which the committee's nine-member executive has been working since 1975, Taiwan will remain a member, so both can be represented in next year's Moscow Olympic.

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Ayatollah urges his followers to raise an army of 20 million

From Robert Fisk
Teheran, Nov 26

Stopping just short of calling for a jihad (a holy war), Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian Islamic leader, today urged his revolutionary guards to raise as many as 20 million young men and women to confront the Americans if the United States invaded Iran.

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HOME NEWS

Confrontation with Community still seems inevitable despite Thatcher-Jenkins talks

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Confrontation with the other eight countries of the European Economic Community still seemed inevitable last night after Mrs Margaret Thatcher had discussed the prospects for the Dublin meeting of leaders with Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission.

Mrs Thatcher stands by her demand that in 1980 there should be a "broad balance" between the amount which the United Kingdom pays into the EEC budget and what is received back.

After the hour-long meeting, during which Mrs Thatcher is reported to have done most of the talking, the word from Whitehall was that "we have not been offered even half a loaf, let alone the loaf we want".

By an adjustment of the financing mechanisms, the Community is offering only a £350m reduction in the proposed net payment by Britain of £1.025m next year, and Mrs Thatcher wants a definite undertaking from the other European leaders at the meeting in Dublin on Thursday and Friday this week.

Mrs Thatcher is prepared to precipitate a political crisis within the Community if no better offer can be made.

The Commission has already submitted a paper for consideration by the European ministers in Dublin which mentions the possibility of compensation payments to countries that are called upon to pay directly to each country's gross

domestic product, which must involve a complete restructuring of the system of financing the budget.

These ideas have run into considerable resistance, and Mr Jenkins will be under pressure to produce new proposals.

Interviewed in the BBC Panorama programme last night, Sir Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy Seal and Government spokesman on foreign affairs in the Commons, was asked whether, in the event of Mrs Thatcher not getting her way, he would rule out Britain's withholding some of the 1980 British budgetary contribution.

He replied that that was hypothetical, but when pressed, he said: "I have not said it is being offered even half a loaf, let alone the loaf we want".

"What I can say is that two things will not happen. One, as good Europeans we would not leave the Community. Two, we shall not behave as though nothing had happened."

"We shall certainly behave as though something had happened." He added: "£350m is nowhere near acceptable. It is miles away."

Sir Ian confirmed, as Mrs Thatcher is told the Commons, that the United Kingdom will do nothing illegal. "But it is worth pointing out that the French have been acting illegally over lamb", he added.

Mr Jenkins could have been left in no doubt that Mrs Thatcher means serious business. She will propose without making any threats, that compensation payments to countries that are called upon to pay directly to each country's gross

Inquiry into Cabinet papers leak

By Fred Emery
Parliamentary Correspondent

In the first publicly admitted leak investigation of the Thatcher Government, the Prime Minister last night disclosed in a parliamentary written reply that reproduction of Cabinet documents in The Sunday Times of November 18 was under investigation.

The report, accompanied by a photocopy of a Cabinet document marked "confidential", dealt with hitherto unpublished Cabinet committee known as MISC 14, whose plans leaned towards business and away from unions.

The aims are, of course, overt government policy. But the report was the first public revelation of the role being played by Mr John Hoskyns, the head of the No 10 policy unit concerned with medium-term and long-term policies.

Headings of his document included "Investigate and publicize restrictive labour practices", "Support managerial authority in disputes", "Slant government contracts in favour of small and medium-sized firms", "Deprive [sic] the Civil Service".

There is also a mention of the need to give less attention to the environmental lobby, especially regarding the long-delayed gas separation plant at Moss Morton, in Scotland.

The newspaper reported that Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment and architect of the conciliatory approach to trade union reform, had been excluded from MISC 14.

However, Mr Prior does not appear put out at the exclusion. He is on the main Cabinet economic committee to which MISC 14 was referred so there is no question of his not knowing what his colleagues are up to with Mr Hoskyns.

There have been other investigations by Special Branch police of leaks from ministers since Mrs Thatcher came to office. But this is the first time any MP had put down a question for written answer on the subject.

Mr Heseltine rejects mortgage subsidies

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday rejected any hope that temporary government subsidies might come to the rescue of householders suffering from the recent increase in mortgage rates to the record level of 15 per cent.

Replying to an Opposition motion condemning the new rates, Mr Heseltine rejected the possibility of subsidies on grounds of their being cost £500m a year for a 2½ per cent reduction and of the difficulty of providing money to help mortgage payers without encouraging the same arguments to be used for greater aid to industry.

He pointed out that money used for subsidies would have to be borrowed, so aggravating the underlying problem. But he recognized that there were real difficulties for those who had recently bought houses, and for those saving to buy.

To help the first category he urged the building societies to extend repayment terms wherever possible instead of looking for an increase in the monthly payments.

Mr Heseltine was naturally cautious about how long the high interest rates would last. He hoped that the period would

Arts campaign to open with public debate

By Our Arts Reporter

An Arts campaign is to be launched in London on Saturday with a public debate, "Crisis in the Arts", organized by the Greater London Arts Association. A similar debate in Birmingham had to be cancelled.

Mr David Pratley, director of the association, said it was intended to lobby local and national government and business.

The debate will take place at the City University at 2.30 pm.

Ex-employee of MI5 faces secrets charge

By Paul Rouse

A propaganda war is shaping up in the coalfields between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board over the union executive's strike call against a 20 per cent pay offer.

The 53 members of the union negotiating team, which includes convenors from all 24 Ford plants, decided on Friday to recommend the company's offer, their "final" one, which was made after 10 hours of talks.

The motion was rejected by 304 votes to 258, a Government majority of 46.

Parliamentary report, page 4

65p school meals

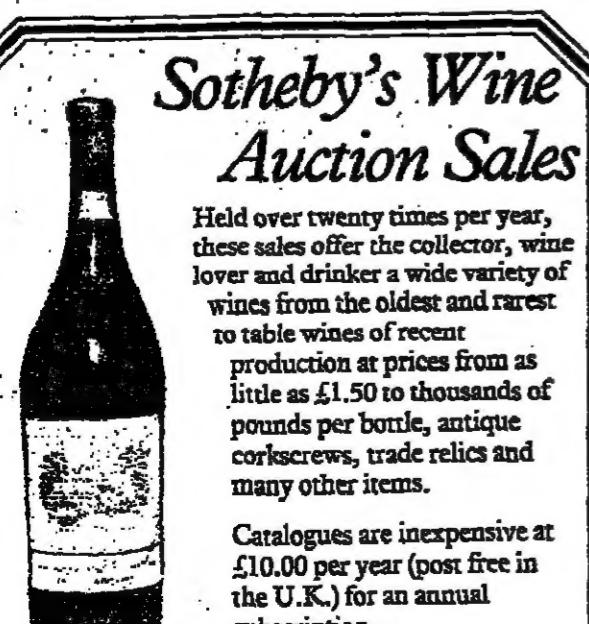
School dinners in Warwickshire will cost almost double when they go up to 65p next April. The county council hopes to save £2m from school meals, oiling and transport.

Catalogues are inexpensive at £10.00 per year (post free in the U.K.) for an annual subscription.

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Closure of 12 radiotherapy departments urged by planning consortium

By Annebel Ferriman

Cancer treatment for patients in Greater London and the Home Counties should be concentrated in 12 specialist centres, an unpublished report from the London Health Planning Consortium recommends.

"Radiotherapy treatment, which is provided at 24 hospitals, should be rationalized because of the high cost of modern equipment and provided only at these centres," the report says. Twelve radiotherapy departments should be closed, including possibly those at the Royal Free Hospital, and St Mary's.

The TUC-Labour Party liaison committee yesterday issued a statement that anything less than a "broad balance" emerging from the Dublin summit must inevitably be seen as a major defeat for the Government.

Michael Hornsey writes from Brussels: With only two days to go to the Dublin "summit" Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, went out of his way in Brussels yesterday to play down suggestions of impending crisis and confrontation.

Britain is a real and legitimate grievance over its budget contribution and the cost of common agricultural policy, Lord Carrington said, but these questions were "no more than trivial squabbles".

He was speaking to the Paul Henri Spaak Foundation in Brussels, one of the EEC's founding fathers.

Lord Carrington added that such squabbles should "not deflect us from the wider and ultimately far more important questions of where the Community is going."

Among the priorities he singled out was the need for greater monetary stability. Britain was not yet a member of the European monetary system (EMS), and that reflected mainly present economic realities and not a lack of will.

Ford union negotiators are due to report tomorrow to the company on whether the offer, which also gives a promise of national talks aimed at reducing working hours from November 1980, has been accepted.

The bulk of results from plants at the company's biggest centre, Dagenham, are expected today. But yesterday the 9,500 body and assembly workers at the company's Halewood factory on Merseyside voted by an estimated majority of two to one to accept.

Ford union negotiators are due to report tomorrow to the company on whether the offer, which also gives a promise of national talks aimed at reducing working hours from November 1980, has been accepted.

Emphasizing that the Government was the fight against inflation, he claimed that there was no purpose of terms in the strike of miners, in attempting to isolate mortgage payers without encouraging the same arguments to be used for greater aid to industry.

He pointed out that money used for subsidies would have to be borrowed, so aggravating the underlying problem. But he recognized that there were real difficulties for those who had recently bought houses, and for those saving to buy.

To help the first category he urged the building societies to extend repayment terms wherever possible instead of looking for an increase in the monthly payments.

Mr Heseltine was naturally cautious about how long the high interest rates would last. He hoped that the period would

be short and for those saving to buy he held out the hope that house prices were now settling down, the dramatic increases of recent times having stopped.

But it was clear, as Mr Roy Hattersley remarked when opening the debate from the Labour Front Bench, that the British people are a great disappointment to Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine told MPs that there were limits to the possibility and desirability of protecting people from the consequences of their own actions. Last winter's pay claims were this year's borrowing requirements, interest rates, and mortgage bills, he added.

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But it was clear, as Mr Roy Hattersley remarked when opening the debate from the Labour Front Bench, that the British people are a great disappointment to Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine told MPs that there were limits to the possibility and desirability of protecting people from the consequences of their own actions. Last winter's pay claims were this year's borrowing requirements, interest rates, and mortgage bills, he added.

HOME NEWS

Ir Revie treated with hostility by FA chairman, judge told

By Seton

Don Revie, the former football manager, had been treated with hostility from Sir I Thompson, chairman of the Football Association, from the day after his appointment and he had resigned when criticisms and innuendos started.

His management had ended "it was obvious some sort of scapegoat was sought", Mr Justice Cander said in the High Court yesterday.

Revie, aged 52, is seeking a set aside a 10-year ban of involvement in the League II imposed by the Football Association after he was England manager in 1977. The FA had said he was in breach of contract and that his behaviour brought the game into disrepute.

One of the most prominent in British football will give evidence for Mr Revie at the hearing, which is expected to last two weeks. They are Lord Harewood, the President of the FA, Mr Michael Schubert, footballer, Mr Liam McNamee, manager of Southampton, Mr Jimmy Hill, the BBC commentator.

Revie, who became one of the national team of United Arab Emirates after his resignation, is seeking from the FA and faces perjury charges for "generalised and aggravated lies" from the association.

Gilbert Gray, QC, for Mr Revie, said the hostility shown

Harold was such that it is proper for him to sit on the FA commission which imposed the ban on Mr Revie.

A reasonable person might wonder there was bias or a risk. He added: "Sir Harold, our court, was effectively a witness, judge and

had out of all proportion to the charges against Revie and denied him the right to work. Mr Gray said Mr Revie had a consultation with Leeds United, his former club, worth £50,000," golden handshake.

The hearing continues today.

Education leader says country must decide on plan I stick to it—or there will be disorder by 1984

Tore random cuts could destroy schools'

By Anna Gaddes
Correspondent
warning that any further cuts in education by 1980s is given by Mr Tomlinson, chairman of Schools Council and director of education in Cheshire, in a powerful leading article in the latest issue of the council's magazine.

nation must decide how education it wanted and money it was willing to put on it, and then plan to that goal in an orderly way. Many authorities seen trimming at the margin of their education service in the past five years; that cannot continue without very long-term effects.

education service was not only the need to cut. It was at one of the difficult and important in its development. "Unseen issues squarely agree policies to deal with may have a service in by 1984," he writes.

Cheshire, as in many authorities, cuts in the budget had to be made very quickly and so fell where happened to be unspent at time. They were based

Mr. Tomlinson called for

Woman teacher of 63 loses fight for reinstatement

Miss Miriam Nothman, aged 63, the mathematics teacher who won a House of Lords ruling last year giving women teachers protection from dismissal up to the age of 65, has lost in the Court of Appeal. Her fight to be reinstated as a teacher for another two school terms.

The appeal judges unanimously rejected her application for leave to appeal from an Employment Appeal Tribunal decision refusing to order her reinstatement. She had been awarded compensation instead.

Last August the tribunal held that Miss Nothman was unfairly dismissed from her teaching post by Barnes Council because she was not pre-

viously warned that dismissal was possible. The council had claimed she was dismissed because of inability to carry out satisfactorily her duties at Copthall School, Mill Hill, London.

Miss Nothman, of Queen's Way, Hendon, who conducted her appeal in person, said outside the court yesterday: "I feel terribly disappointed and I shall go on fighting until justice is seen to be done. If I had been reinstated I could have gone on teaching in effect until I was 70."

Lord Justice Ormrod, rejecting Miss Nothman's application, said there were no possible grounds for granting her leave to appeal on the specific point of reinstatement as a mathematics teacher.

Ruling perverse, writer says

Mr C. Gordon Tether, the former *Financial Times* journalist, who was dismissed after an editorial clash over the content of his daily "Lombard" column, claimed yesterday that during his 21 years on the newspaper he had been given the "prescriptive right" to choose his own subjects and to write about them in his own way.

At the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London he is challenging the rejection of his claim for unfair dismissal by an industrial tribunal. Mr Tether, aged 65, of Worplesdon, Surrey, had claimed reinstatement and compensation.

The industrial tribunal decided after a hearing lasting 44 days that he was dismissed in 1976 because the working relationship between him and the newspaper's editor, Mr M. H. (Freddy) Fisher, broke down irreparably. Under his contract

he was not free to write on matters of his own choosing, the tribunal held.

Mr Tether said yesterday: "My case is that there is overwhelming evidence that, under the editorship of Sir Gordon Newton [whom Mr Fisher succeeded] I obtained the prescriptive right to choose my own subjects and write about them in my own way."

In bringing the appeal he had no desire to harass or persecute the *Financial Times*, he said.

He submitted that the findings of the industrial tribunal were "in broad terms perverse from start to finish".

He argued that employers did not, as a general rule in contracts of employment, have a right to make material changes in employees' terms and conditions without their consent.

The hearing continues today.



Mongatabam Tuleswari, aged 14, of the Manipur dance group, preparing to rehearse her solo for a Schools Prom at the Albert Hall.

Uniforms and sausages offered to motorists

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Two unusual offers came the way of the British motorist yesterday: to buy a big Japanese car and have a chauffeur's uniform to go with it, and to choose his favourite sausage at a motorway service area.

The uniform, made to measure by Burton, is being given to every purchaser of a Toyota Crown saloon before the end of January.

According to Mr Alan Marsh, sales and marketing director of Toyota (GB) Ltd, a high proportion of Crown buyers top

executives who are chauffeur-driven. The car sells at just under £8,000.

Mr Marsh thought that Crown owners who preferred to drive themselves would find the uniform influential with traffic wardens.

BL's recent smoked salmon promotion to sell the Rover seems to have tickled the palate.

During the three months

August-October selected business and professional people were circulated on behalf of Rover dealers and offered a side of smoked salmon, worth up to £20, if they agreed to

take a test drive. Some 16,000 people responded.

How many bought the cars is not known, but BL said yesterday that it had sold 50 per cent more Rovers during the smoked salmon campaign than in the previous three months and had increased Rover's market share from 14 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

Even if the salmon had not done the trick this time, the company hoped the taste (of both salmon and car) would linger sufficiently to stimulate future sales.

It may be a long way from smoked salmon to the British

sausage, which is to be the subject of a tasting experiment at motorway service areas run by Granada.

Though Granada sold seven million, or 452 miles, of sausages to hungry motorists last year, it thought the time had come to see whether people would prefer an alternative to the standard pork and beef.

So the British Sausage Bureau was asked to produce ideas for a new "super sausage" based on traditional ingredients. Motorists will be able to taste the results for the first time tomorrow at the Heston service area on the M4.

Man did not die from police kick, judge rules

From Our Correspondent

Manchester

A father of four children did not die because he was kicked by a police constable in a struggle at his home. Mr Justice Tudor Evans decided in the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

The judge gave judgment for Greater Manchester police, and said: "I find he did not suffer these injuries as a result of a kick."

Mr Edward Platt, aged 36, an alcoholic with a history of mental illness, died five weeks after a doctor had called the police to the Platt home in Woodstock Road, Mosley, Manchester, in May 1973.

His widow, who has since remarried, had claimed damages against the police. The police denied that Mr Platt was assaulted, but said the injuries could have been caused accidentally in a violent struggle with him.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans, in his judgment, said he accepted the denials of the five officers called to the house that one of them, Constable Cecil Olden, kicked Mr Platt.

They all knew Mr Platt's history and had decided he should be taken to hospital. Mr Platt was being drinking and had taken tablets, a combination which a medical expert thought "would make him go very mad".

He was satisfied Mr Platt was aggressive and violent towards the police. He also accepted that the injuries could have been caused by Mr Platt falling against a door jamb and a radiator or when a 15 stone officer fell on him to restrain him.

There was clear evidence that the police had been polite, helpful, considerate and concerned.

Dismissing the claim, the judge ordered the plaintiff to pay the costs. When told that she was legally liable, he directed that the order should not be enforced without leave of the court.

Thieves on motor cycle hurl cash on to road

Shoppers watched yesterday as two men on a motorcycle sped through Doncaster hurling bundles of £10 and £5 notes into the road. They were being chased by police at up to 60mph after hijacking a Post Office van.

Police said they threw away many thousands of pounds from mailbags but kept a large envelope containing £4,000 in used notes. They eventually escaped in heavy traffic.

The two attacked the van during a delivery of cash to a subpost office in Doncaster's Town Moor district. The driver's mate was forced out at gunpoint and an thief drove the vehicle away. No one was hurt.

Minutes later they were spotted on the motorcycle, struggling with up to eight cloth mail bags and throwing away cash, apparently to reduce weight.

By last night all the abandoned money had been recovered and the motorcycle, which had false number plates, was found in Edlington Woods.

Police believe the men were trying to cut through the woods to avoid road blocks when their machine became bogged down in mud. The Post Office van, with a sown-off shotgun in it, was found in a churchyard.

Couple jailed for death of son

A young married couple were sent to prison yesterday after being found guilty at Northampton Crown Court of causing the death of their son, aged 16 months, by wilful neglect. Martin Sheppard was said to have weighed when he died under the normal.

Jennifer Sheppard, aged 23, of Rock Street, Wellington, Northamptonshire, was jailed for nine months and James, her husband, who is 21 today, was given a six-month sentence. They had both pleaded not guilty.

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EV PARLIAMENT, November 26, 1979

Honours for political service to be restored: Mr Callaghan declines to put forward names

House of Commons

The Prime Minister announced in a statement that honours are to be reintroduced for members of parties for political services. All recommendations for honours would be examined by the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, said he would not be submitting names from the Labour Party.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) said: "Work in the service of political parties is at present one major area of this country's life which is not recognized by the award of honours. I do not believe that to be right."

I have accordingly recommended that the forthcoming New Year Honours List and subsequent lists should include the service for their political and public services. Her Majesty the Queen has approved my recommendation.

I do not consider that such awards should be made only to those in the party in power. I have therefore invited the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party to submit recommendations for political honours. I am also ready to receive from the same way recommendations from the other minority parties.

All recommendations for honours for political and public services will be examined by the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee before they are submitted to the Queen for approval.

I should also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge any other changes in the role of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. I have asked the committee to examine any names which in future I add to the recommendations at CSE level and above which are submitted to it through the official honours machinery in respect of services in all fields other than that of political services.

The committee has readily agreed to do so. This further extension of the committee's function, I believe, help to maintain the integrity of the honours system.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff South-East, Lab)—congratulate Mrs Thatcher on this innocent diversion from some of the more pressing matters of the day. It is a mark for the Prime Minister of the day, as I properly recognize.

There is general recognition of the fact that the service that is given to the nation by voluntary workers in all our parties, whosoever they may be. Mrs Thatcher will remember that this system was discontinued in 1966 to stem abuses by some who do not wish to use the strong word—abuse of the system in the conferment of knighthoods and baronetcies by previous Tory chief whips. (Prolonged Conservative interruptions.)

Having heard the enthusiasm with which she has been greeted on the Tory benches today, it is clear there will be no lack of

candidates again in future. (Laughter)

The Prime Minister is moving in the wrong direction. He has had a look at some partial changes in this matter, especially in the conferment of awards to civil servants who are now renumerated on a different basis from when these awards were first conferred, and the relationships between the civil, diplomatic and defence services.

Because there were more pressing problems, and another reason, I decided not to take any action on this limited aspect of the matter.

Now Mrs Thatcher is introducing a partial change in making nominations. (Interruption) Instead of making this change, this should be coupled with a general review of the honours system as it stands at present, both on the distribution of awards between the various groups and on the method of selection.

I am glad Mrs Thatcher is going to submit certain names to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. That was done when Mr Edward Heath (Bexley, Sidcup, C) reformed the system in 1970. We are now seeking confirmation in this country anywhere that is a good case for making the conferment of awards more valuable by making them more easy to come by and generalising and extending them.

Mrs Thatcher—I suggest that Mr Callaghan will now make recommendations. I think, perhaps, it is a personal opinion. It is a pity to leave all these matters to reorganisation of the system.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab)—As a continuation of his counter-revolutionary process and in response to pressure from her own backbenchers, will she consider reintroducing hereditary honours?

Mrs Thatcher—No. Membership of the Privy Council is not included in this. It is regarded as wholly separate.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab)—As a continuation of his counter-revolutionary process and in response to pressure from her own backbenchers, will she consider reintroducing hereditary honours?

Mrs Thatcher—I do not wholly exclude the possibility, but it would not be for something of very great distinction.

Mr Donald Stewart leader of the Scottish National Party (Western Isles, Scot Nat)—We have no intention of backing her up in view of the fact that she has got her backbenchers over the role of transport for school children, industrial redundancies, the mortgage rates and so on, has this scheme been cooked up as a bribe to keep them in line?

Mrs Thatcher—I entirely accept the view of Mr Stewart.

Mr Peter Tizard (Gosport, C)—Dentistry depends largely upon the people who work regardless of party in the constituencies. It is constructive to say that the people who do this work should be eligible for these awards.

Mrs Thatcher—I entirely accept the view. Democracy cannot work without the work they do. Therefore they should be eligible for the next few weeks.

Mr David Steel leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L)—It is our view that it is not appropriate for us to give honours for outstanding public service of every variety in this country except service to our democracy. For that reason, the changes announced obviously are sensible.

Mrs Thatcher—She should not close her mind to the possibility of a review because surely these are meant to be outstanding services and not routine service of the kind for which they have been used in the past. Government since 1964 has been the main agent of change.

Mrs Thatcher—I do not agree. This is a difficult issue, recognizing the need for a deal of public service.

I hope the safeguards I have built in will preserve its integrity.

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Slip up: answer to MP different from that approved by minister

MPs protested at what Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, called "a slip up" last July which resulted in Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab) being given a written answer of his own from the one which Mr Stanley had been approved.

Mr Wedgwood Benn (Bristol, South, Lab) suggested that a civil servant had tampered with information and the Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he would make inquiries about the matter.

Mr Stanley (Tunbridge and Malling, C) said it now appeared that the minister's two questions to which he had approved were not those which subsequently appeared in *Housewifery*. (Protests.)

I apologise to Mr Straw and the house (he said) for the slip-up that occurred.

He could reproduce the answers he had originally approved, in *Housewifery*.

Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—I do not think we have ever heard a stranger reply to a question of this kind.

Mr Stanley repeated that there had been a slip up.

He did not answer when Mr. Callaghan said—that is unanswerable.

When Mr Callaghan pressed him, Mr Stanley said: "Obviously there was a mistake, the wrong answer was given." Some people had been tenants. The other concerned what information on council house sales the Secretary of State collected from local authorities and other sources.

In *The Guardian* today, however, there was a leak of a Government document which showed the answers he had been given were

inaccurate at best and misleading. Was it in order for a minister to do this?

Mr Stanley (Tunbridge and Malling, C) said it now appeared that the minister's two questions to which he had approved were not those which subsequently appeared in *Housewifery*. (Protests.)

What the minister has said, which is quite unprecedented in the experience of most of us, is that a civil servant changed the answer he originally approved.

The Speaker—I undertake that I will make inquiries to see if there is anything I can do to help the House and will make a statement in the near future on this.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-West, Lab)—I agree with the speaker's statement.

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HOME NEWS

Ministers look to the oil industry for help with training of divers

By Ronald Fazekas

Mr William, Minister for Social Security, has decided to intervene in an appeal against refusal of mobility allowance to a boy aged 14 suffering from Down's syndrome.

His letter to the Child Poverty Action Group yesterday said he could not influence an individual claim. His statement was described as "senseless" by Mr Nicholas Warren, the group's legal officer.

The last government promised these children would get mobility allowances. Mr Warren said: "When the regulations were published we were assured they would cover Down's syndrome."

At least one medical appeal tribunal has found it impossible to decide a case under the regulations, introduced last March after a test case established that Down's syndrome children with walking difficulties were covered.

Mrs Martha Street, of Cardiff, recently won an appeal on behalf of a boy aged 14 who was refused the allowance under the old regulations and again in April when a medical board reviewed the case under the new rules.

Mr William was chosen because it is the only place in Britain which has good communications near a sheltered 50ft deep hole in the sea.

The most likely change to come from the government review will be for the Petroleum Industry Training Board to take over management. The board operates a system of levies on the oil industry. This would shift the full cost of diving training away from the Treasury and ensure that a diving lifetime was kept open.

ell device that might have saved men 'removed'

No North Sea divers who after their lifeline were freed could have been found dead if their diving bell had an "electric plugger", an inquiry in Aberdeen was told yesterday. It stated that the "plunger" been removed.

Two men were found after a four-hour search died before the bell was opened. Sheriff William

doctored said the lack of a "plunger" seemed to be the significant thing in the story, because they could have been rescued two or three hours earlier. He is to announce his decision later.

Malcolm MacNeil, the

Procurator Fiscal, said he believed there were moves to establish an international frequency for "plungers".

He present at the inquiry stood for a moment's silence because it was the anniversary of the deaths of the divers, Mr Anthony Prangley, aged 28, of Stanmore, Middlesex, and Mr Michael Ward, aged 25, of Southampton.

The agent for the divers' next of kin, Mr Reginald Christie, said the men might have been saved if the "plunger" had been fitted to the bell, but it had been removed.

He submitted that "plungers" should be mandatory on bells.

Mr Prentice 'cannot intervene' to help boy

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

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Whitehall brief: How public right of access to official information is curtailed

Secrecy shrouds No 10 directive on open government

By Peter Hennessy

Now that the Prime Minister has been obliged by events to withdraw the Government's Protection of Official Information Bill, which if passed would have maintained Britain's position as the Monte Carlo of secrecy in the Western world, it is timely to inquire about the positive side of the secrecy business and pin down the Cabinet's precise position on open government.

Waiting for Mrs Margaret Thatcher in No 10 on May 4 was a paper on possible expenditure savings prepared by the Civil Service Department (CSD), of which she is ministerial overlord. It suggested she might wish to curtail the dispersal programme for moving civil servants into the regions. She did, and so, incidentally, did the CSD. She might want to avoid further costly steps towards more open government. She did and so did the CSD.

The CSD managed to claw back even more. The department had never forgiven its former chief, Lord Croham, for sacking the Civil Service in July, 1973, with an open government commitment in what became known as the Croham Directive. Officials particularly resented having to keep lists of material released under that policy to send to a handful of



Mr. Whitmore: Classified letter on openness as confidential.

Cabinet Committee of civil servants appointed by Mr Callaghan to prepare a variety of open government schemes designed to "buy off" Mr Clement Freud's Official Information Bill if it came anywhere near the recording law. Mrs Caroline Morrison and Mrs Barbara Sloman of the CSD were redeployed on other work and Mr George Moseley, chairman of GEN 146, could again devote all his time to worrying about personnel matters of the Civil Service.

This slightly jaundiced analysis has been privately challenged in Whitehall. True, GEN 146 has gone and the Croham Directive has been amended, but look at Mr Paul Channon's statement in the Commons on June 20 that "it will be the practice of this Government to make as much information as possible available in the future" and papers and analytical studies relevant to major policy decisions.

Ministers were persuaded that that was a waste of public money. Departments no longer keep lists and, according to insiders, the increasing flow of paper emerging in Mr Callaghan's last 18 months in the office has dwindled to a trickle. On top of that, Mrs Thatcher did not replace GEN 146, the

Mrs Thatcher's personal injunction to openness takes the form, it transpires, of a letter dated June 20, signed by Mr Clive Whitmore, her principal private secretary, and sent to his equivalents in the private offices of Cabinet ministers. For some reason Mr Whitmore classified it "confidential" there by ensuring that the latest Whitehall directive on open government must remain a secret.

A telephone call about the Whitmore letter to Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, elicited the following "on-the-record" reply from a Downing Street spokesman insisted must be quoted in full or not at all:

"It is not the Government's practice to release the texts of correspondence between ministers or their private offices, so I am afraid I cannot release a copy of the letter. You may, however, confirm your understanding that the letter conveyed the Prime Minister's wish that ministers should give close personal attention to take the initiative in publishing information, especially on major issues of parliamentary interest, to the greatest possible extent."

The spokesman omitted to mention that the Whitmore letter goes on to say the Prime Minister has no intention of introducing legislation to establish a public right of access to official information and that no further formal steps will be taken to that end.

To supplement the No 10 statement and Mr Channon's answer, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, has agreed to release the minute he circulated in his department on June 21 in response to the Whitmore letter. Headed "Release of information to Parliament and the public", it reads:

"The House of Commons was informed yesterday that it will be the practice of this Government to make as much information as possible available in the future, particularly in papers and analytical studies relevant to major policy decisions. We must ensure that these arrangements are effective in defence, and publish information, especially on major issues of parliamentary interest, to the greatest possible extent consistent with the requirements of security. It will be for ministers to decide what material can be released in this way, and they should be grateful if you will bear this consideration in mind."

Until Mr Whitmore's letter is declassified and released at the Public Record Office on January 1, 2010 (by which time Mrs Thatcher may be in the House of Lords or its equivalent), the Downing Street spokesman and Mr Pym's minute will be all Whitmore watchers have to go on, unless, of course, Parliament manages to pass a freedom of information Bill in the meantime amending the 30-year rule.

Welsh nationalists shown road to socialism

Regional report

Tim Jones
Cardiff

defended in parallel by the Labour Party.

By its next party conference, Plaid members will have had time to digest an astonishing attack on its raison d'être put forward by an uncompromising stand of its activists.

Like the Labour Left in Britain which argues that in May's 1979 election was lost because people were not given a choice of radical socialism, a strong element of Plaid theoreticians is seeking to commit the party to republican socialism in an effort to restore lost fortunes.

It is a difficult and dangerous road which relies on assertions which can be challenged by people inside and outside the party. In any event, Plaid's task is unavoidable for the popular issues it embraces—such as unemployment, jobs, pit closures—are

massive "no" vote in the devolution referendum was not a verdict against the Labour government's proposals as such. Rather it was a repudiation of watered-down Welsh nationalism, and an affirmation of the Welsh inferiority complex.¹ The authors say that the monarchy is a weapon wielded with cunning by the English ruling-class to inspire loyalty to the British state, and it must be challenged and Welshness and egalitarianism exalted in its stead.

Condemning the Plaid leadership for supporting the referendum campaign, the authors, referring to the hope of eventual self-government through an assembly, say: "All this can come to be, they claimed, within our any stand-up fight, any subversive activity, certainly without violence (let the Welsh nation perish rather than that) against the British state, its forces, institutions and ideology."

"A new leadership must be built to fight for, and become

the expression of, a Plaid Cymru which is, at every level, socialist and consistently anti-British. This struggle is, in itself, worthwhile; but in the event of the 'rural right' keeping its grip on the purse strings and the internal levers of power, socialists and republicans in Plaid Cymru should have the courage, as well as the strength and organization, to leave Plaid Cymru and contribute to the setting up of an independent Welsh socialist Party."

The authors put forward a programme of aims for a Welsh socialist republican movement which, with the exception of promoting Welsh autonomy and saving the language, is virtually indistinguishable from the remedy propounded by the Labour left for Britain's ills.

No doubt, when he retires next year to the haven of his Carmarthenshire market garden, Mr Gwynfor Evans, Plaid's president, will look back on a decade during which his party achieved unprecedented success. He may have a private sigh of relief that he will be spared the coming ideological storm that could tear his party apart.

Choreographer leaving the Ballet Rambert

By Martin Huckerby

Mr Christopher Bruce, Ballet Rambert's codirector, who has been the company's principal choreographer and a leading dancer for many years, is leaving, largely to develop his freelance career.

Mr Bruce has choreographed 15 works for the company since he joined it in 1963. He remains codirector of the Ballet Rambert Academy.

Miss Prudence Skene, administrator since 1975, becomes director (administration); Mr John Chesworth remains director.

RSC visit: The Royal Shakespeare Company will visit Newcastle upon Tyne for six weeks from February 18 next, presenting at the Theatre Royal Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Orfeo*, *Julius Caesar* and *Twelfth Night*. At the Small Gulbenkian Studio there will be performances of Shakespeare's *Pericles*, *Breath's Bad*, *Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie*, Nikolai Erdman's *The Suicide* and Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

Guernsey tax allowances to go up next year

From Our Correspondent

St Peter Port

Substantial improvements in income tax allowances for 1980 are proposed by Guernsey's finance committee in its budget report published yesterday, which is to be debated by the island parliament on December 12.

The committee recommends that the standard rate of income tax should remain at the 30 per cent level maintained for the past 20 years and that for the third successive year there should be no increase in indirect taxation.

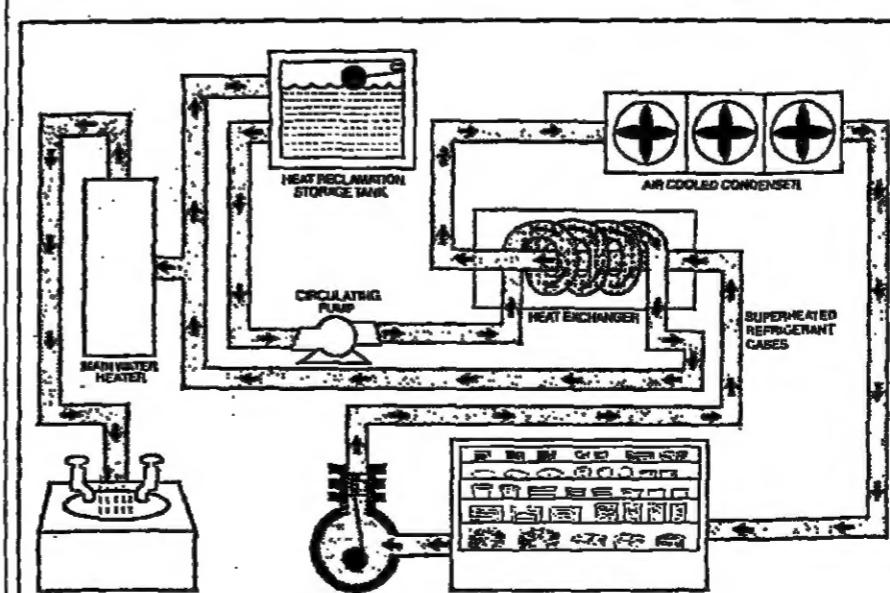
Miss P. Arrowsmith

Miss Par Arrowsmith, who has entered into a willow of responsibility to enable her to inherit £20,000 left by her father, asks us to make clear that she intends to give the main part of the inheritance to the Troops out of Ireland movement. She already has a proposal to it to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Anti-Nazi League and the Kampuchea relief fund.

Waste heat from the freezer is a big cost saver

If your organisation is involved in retailing refrigerated or frozen foods, equipment now available can probably help you cut heating costs on an impressive scale.

Recent running tests on an installation designed to reclaim waste heat from chilled food displays at Marks & Spencer, Winchester, have revealed that 76 per cent savings in water-heating costs can be made—from £1,700 to a mere £400 per annum.



Build Electric Bureau

Striking equipment displays at London's Build Electric Bureau, like the one pictured here, form a constant source of information for architects and builders alike. In fact, everyone concerned with services in buildings will find the bureau's displays an invaluable aid.

Space heating, water heating and lighting are all featured, together with a special section on heat pumps in commercial premises.

Strong emphasis is placed in all the exhibits on the need for minimising energy consumption through properly designed installations.

Staff are always on hand with more information on queries arising from exhibits and related topics. The Build Electric Bureau is at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT. It is open from Monday to Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and Saturday, 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information tick box No. 3.



Please send me copies of leaflets/information on the following topics:
Please tick as appropriate.

Simon Stevens, The Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.

1. Planned Catering

2. Heat Recovery

3. Build Electric Bureau

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

POSITION.....
Using our energy can save yours.

PLAN ELECTRIC
The Electricity Council, England and Wales.

Energy-saving pool lights are tops with swimmers

ply by taking a critical look at the lighting of its swimming pool complex, a centre in Leatherhead has cut its lighting load by 72 per cent. And into the bargain it has been attracting more users since the old system was replaced.

The basis of this award-winning installation is an array of solarbeam floodlights using 16 SON-L high-pressure sodium lamps. The warm golden light is ideal for swimming pool use. The three-pool complex previously been lit by 34 wall-mounted lamps using 1000W tungsten halogen lamps. When the centre's technical manager, K. Price, decided to investigate ways of cutting the 34kW load, he approached an (GEC) for advice.

Substantial savings. The scheme finally put forward slashed lighting load from 34kW to 9.5kW at the same time substantially increasing the illumination level. This sort of saving, if

applied to all swimming pools in the country, would plainly be of great significance. And if the increased number of users is anything to go by, the more pleasant and welcoming environment produced by these lamps is a definite added attraction.

The system is wall-mounted and portable equipment, which means a minimum of inconvenience to staff and users alike. Conversion costs, including all labour and materials, came to less than £4,000. With the 2.5kW reduction in load and smaller maximum demand charges a payback period of under two years is predicted.

This scheme won the commercial section of EMILAS '78. The annual EMILAS competition aims to encourage energy-saving lighting installations.

For further information on the Energy Management in Lighting Award Scheme, 1979, write to Mr Ken Pike, Lighting Industry Federation Ltd, 25 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HJ.



Approved for safety
Where applicable, all equipment on display at the centre carries the Electricity Council's Approved for Safety label, and much of the equipment can be used for demonstrations.

Another facility at the service of customers is a well-equipped conference area, with audio visual equipment, films and slide packs, and facilities for lectures and presentations. All this is available to customers who need information on any catering subject—free of charge—at the Electric Catering Centre, 45 St. Martin's Lane, London WC1N 4EL.

HOME NEWS

British Rail may press for full ownership of Channel tunnelBy Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

British Rail are likely to press for full railway ownership of a new Channel tunnel rather than the heavy private sector involvement envisaged for the earlier, abortive project.

The main reasons are that the "mini" rail-only tunnel now proposed looks like being an attractive investment for the railways, and a private sector partnership appears to offer no significant advantages.

An internal study prepared for the European Parliament concludes that with a projected return of 13.4 per cent British Rail, with the French railways as their likely partners, should think of taking full advantage of the financial benefits of the project by owning the tunnel themselves, as well as the rolling stock and terminals at either end.

A current cost of £800m

for a single-track, rail-only tunnel built to the larger continental dimensions, a surplus of £55m is predicted in the first year of operation, and a cumulative surplus of £280m with four years.

Various ways of funding the project are looked at, including leasing, which could provide substantial tax advantages to the company that built the tunnel and leased it to the railways. But the broad conclusion is that private sector funding of the tunnel offers no marked advantage.

Bankers' advice is that outright equity capital is unlikely to be available for tunnel construction, and that comprehensive government guarantees would be required for either the public or private sector.

That raises the "bogy" of public sector borrowing limits which, however, could be met by the tunnel's probable benefits to the national economy, the study concludes.

RAF loses 24 aircraft and two crew in a 'black' year

By Our Defence Correspondent

The loss of an RAF Jaguar strike aircraft which crashed near Ben Nevis on Friday brings the total of RAF aircraft lost this year to 24.

Sixteen aircraft crashed in Britain and the rest were lost abroad. Last year 14 crashed; 10 were lost in 1977 and 17 in 1976. The average loss for a year is 20, so 1979 is already being regarded as a black year for the service.

Only two aircrew have died this year, discounting Friday's crash, compared with 12 in 1978, four in 1977 and 10 in 1976.

Three civilians have also died as a result of RAF accidents this year, the same number as in 1977, but in 1978

and 1976 there were no civilian fatalities.

An RAF official said last night that the chance of a civilian dying in a service accident was still only one in 55,879,666, while the statistic for civil road accidents was one in 7,900 and for industrial accidents one in 1,700.

The RAF has lost 76 aircraft in the last 1,500,000 flying hours, which is the lowest average of any Nato country.

The RAF aircraft which have been "written off" after crashes in 1979 are: seven Harriers, four Jaguars, three Hunters, three Lightnings, two Jet Provosts, one Phantom, one Buccaneer, one Bulldog, one Gnat, and one Wessex helicopter.

The Price Commission's finding, borne out by smaller surveys since, was that no type of retail toy was consistently cheaper for all toys and that consumers should buy around.

The recommendation is not easy to carry out. Already many shops report that crowds make it difficult to move around.

School aims to make world airways saferFrom Arthur Read
Air Correspondent

A school for air traffic controllers which has been established in a Georgian mansion in Bath aims to make the airways of the world safer.

The school was formally opened yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, a former airline pilot.

It is in Ballbrook House, built in 1790 which is owned by International Aeradio, a company formed in 1947 to provide aviation tactical services. The biggest of the company's 30 airline shareholders is British Airways.

Ballbrook House specializes

in teaching air traffic control to students from overseas. Its residents are young men and women from 10 foreign countries. Most of them begin with a basic course in English, the international language of air traffic control.

The centre-piece of the training activities is a digital computer, installed at a cost of £250,000, which holds details of the performance of 96 aircraft types. These can be transferred to radar screens.

The concentrated atmosphere of an air traffic control centre is reproduced with great authenticity. Using the computer, instructors can increase the work load on each pupil until he or she approaches breaking point.

Severed finger found and sewn back on

From Our Correspondent

Ipswich, Isle of Wight

A 16-year-old boy yesterday from a prison officer thanked them for finding his missing finger.

Mr Eddie Walder, aged 35, a physical training instructor at Albany jail, was leaping over a barrier at Parkhurst prison officers' club on Saturday when he severed the top half of his right middle finger.

He was taken to hospital and after a call to the police two officers went to the accident scene and found the finger. It was taken to the hospital and sewn back on.

Tree from Norway

London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree, an annual gift from Norway, was delivered yesterday. The 65ft spruce was shipped from Oslo to Felixstowe.

Drugged husband killed by woman's lover, QC says

From Our Correspondent

St Albans

After a woman had drugged her husband into unconsciousness with sleeping tablets her lover beat him to death with a garden spade, the prosecution alleged at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday.

In darkness the two drove his body to a motorway bridge and threw it over into the fast lane below. Mr Anthony McCowan, QC, for the Crown, added. Before doing that they dressed the body in women's underwear to make it look as though the husband was a transvestite who had committed suicide.

Margaret Chapman, aged 32, of Jackman's Estate, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and Peter West, aged 39, of Ivel Court, Jackman's Estate, both pleaded not guilty to murdering Frederick Chapman, aged 33, last February.

Mr McCowan said that Mrs Chapman, mother of two children, and Mr West had been secret lovers for six months before the killing. The husband was a hardworking man.

Counsel said that a month before the murder Mrs Chapman alleged to various people that her husband was a transvestite who dressed up in women's clothing, and that she found it repulsive. She showed them some women's clothing in the matrimonial bedroom which she said belonged to her husband.

The jury were told that the body was not run over and a lorry driver noticed it and called the police.

Mr McCowan said that at first the death appeared to be a straightforward suicide but the police found blood on the bridge pavement and hand rail, which suggested he was already bleeding when he went over.

The trial continues today.

Thomas Crapper fails to win a plaque

By Our Local Government Correspondent

A suggestion that a blue plaque should be erected to commemorate a former home of the Victorian sanitary engineer, Thomas Crapper, after earnest consideration has been rejected by the historic buildings committee of the Greater London Council.

The committee decided that "memorable though Crapper's name might be in popular terms," evidence from the Patent Office showed that he was not a notable inventor in his field.

Two other eminent men are more likely to be commemorated. The committee has supported the suggestion of plaques for Sir Edmund Gosse (1843-1928), literary historian, poet and critic, and Sir John Tomes (1815-1895), one of the founders of dentistry. If finally approved, it will be the first plaque dedicated to a dentist in London.

Store cleaner fined £600

Mrs Blanca Bedoya, aged 29, a store cleaner, who was said to have taken out of Debenham's Oxford Street, nearly £3,000 of clothing over 20 months, was fined £500 at Marlborough Street Magistrates Court, London, yesterday.

Mrs Bedoya, of Ebury Road, Finchley Park, London, had admitted 139 offences of theft from the store.

The injured man was a bus

Toy prices vary by as much as a half

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Parents could well be spending 25 per cent more than they used to this Christmas on every child under 10, because retailers charge widely differing prices for popular toys and games.

Customers are intent on spending more than £300m on toys and games before Christmas, or about £50 for every child under 10, but the highest prices exceed the lowest in many cases by more than half.

For example, parents who buy "Soldier Action Man" at W.H. Smith this week will pay £49.49 for a toy that is widely available elsewhere at £2 less.

A survey yesterday showed that prices for Waddington's dentist game, in which the "patient" emits an agonized scream if the contestant touches a gum while trying to extract a tooth, range from £5.89 to £8.59.

Five shops are still selling Lego 10 kits at old discount price of £3.25, while most are charged more than £4.99. Harrods £4.99, W.H. Smith £5.25, and Sainsbury's £5.25, while Harrods price is now £4.25, but Harrods sells Scalextric 300 sets at £18.81, against Woolworth's £8.99.

The now defunct Price Commission reported in August that it had found large price differences among toy retailers in a survey in March.

The evidence suggests that the price war in toyland has become hotter in a pre-Christmas push. Almost half the sales of toys and games are made in the Christmas quarter and some of the big companies offering the biggest discounts concentrate their sales at the Christmas period.

The Price Commission's finding, borne out by smaller surveys since, was that no type of retail toy was consistently cheaper for all toys and that consumers should buy around.

The recommendation is not easy to carry out. Already many shops report that crowds make it difficult to move around.

WEST EUROPE

London prepares for battle with Bonn over BAOR costsBy Henry Starhope
Defence Correspondent

Britain, already confronting its allies over EEC budget contributions, is preparing for a clash over the costs of stationing troops in West Germany.

The Ministry of Defence, with Cabinet approval, is drawing up a list of gripes to be put to the Bonn Government early in the new year.

Payments by which West Germany helps to offset the foreign exchange costs to Britain of keeping troops overseas have long been in need of modernisation.

This is not only mean work for the German Construction Agency, but also that the German money would be invested in real estate on home soil.

Together with the written agreement that it was to be the last offset payment deal it was a very satisfactory gain from the West German point of view.

As Britain has to pay about £100m every year on construction alone for its troops stationed there, the deal has meant, however, that the Germans have met only 40 per cent of that single bill.

Moreover the foreign exchange costs have risen to an estimated £66m in 1979-80.

The proposals are being prepared by the Ministry of Defence with a plan to the West German Government once the document settled after the EEC budget contribution.

One idea is that the Germans should be asked to sign an agreement similar to, but better than, the existing one.

These talks are to continue tomorrow, with other ministers taking part.

The visit began with a lunch meeting today with President Giscard d'Estaing followed by private talks during the afternoon with M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister.

These talks are to continue tomorrow, with other ministers taking part.

On the question of Spanish entry to the Community, France has agreed to accept Spain's application.

At the start of the year Spain began a press campaign attacking France for not extending Basque nationalism of the EITZ organisation.

The visit ends on Friday.



Senior Suarez (right) arrives for Elysee Palace lunch with President Giscard d'Estaing.

Suárez visit aims to sway France

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 26

Senior Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, arrived in Paris today for a two-day official visit during which he will be in touch with French supporters of the European Community.

Senior Suárez's group, which includes the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Labour, Agriculture, Commerce and EEC

Given the fact that France has more reason than any other Community member to oppose Spanish entry, it is certain that Senior Suárez has approached this visit with some misgiving.

Other issues besides entry to the Community have also clouded the Basque question.

The Basque question is also clouded. Franco-Spanish relationships in recent months

have been strained by a referendum.

Spanish entry into the EEC will nevertheless dominate the discussions, with France

stating that Spanish agriculture will have to be subject to long periods of integration after entry.

Air controllers continue ban on France flight

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 26

French air traffic controllers again today to continue their industrial action which has led to most daytime flights in and out of France being cancelled over the past three weeks.

They will continue the pattern of banning flights for long periods followed by short periods on alternate days until next Monday.

Preliminary talks with air traffic authorities broke down last week on the claim for higher pay and improved working conditions.

At the same time authorities have started to increase the number of disciplinary lay-offs of controllers.

Each of the regional centres decide on these lay-offs themselves, but so far more than 150 controllers have been laid off for up to three months.

An eight-day lay-off represents a financial loss between £10 and £150 million (£73 to £170) according to the unions.

Several small regional companies have lodged claims for damages against the industry.

Snail-eater dies

Nancy, France, Nov 26.—

Marie Quinquandon, the world's snail-eating champion, died yesterday in hospital just after eating 72 snails in three minutes.

Her trade union organizing the

Non-stop show is still waiting for permission to start**French rules snarl up the circus**

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 26

Only three of the 11 parties in Portugal's election this Sunday will be able to form parliamentary groups in the next Assembly, according to political observers here. The parties are the Social Democratic, Socialist, Democratic Alliance (a grouping of the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and Monarchists) and the United People's Alliance (APU), a minor but vigorous group of left-wing parties.

Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, led a spectacular march of thousands of supporters from the forest of Vincennes in the south-east corner of Paris, passing by to see 19 elephants, two camels, 30 horses and a fine collection of lions and tigers.

They are safe and warm in heated cages, although somewhat short of their usual exercise which they get performing in a circus.

The animals are part of the giant American circus, which is actually an Italian circus run on American lines. They were due to be one of the main attractions at a much publicised spectacle which was due to open in a week.

For the moment, however, there seems little hope of the snow going on, for the circus has run foul of French regulations and, it is feared, darkly, in the action of a group of French provincial families.

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RSEAS

Ian Smith says he would work in Patriotic Front if it wins Zimbabwe Rhodesia elections

Notes Asiford Nov. 26

Smith Minister with

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Rhodesia's 230,000

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prepared to work

Patriotic Front if the

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He was asked if he was afraid

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German Foreign

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ments at a meeting

British Government

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the Zimbabwe Rho-

sue.

One quarter of the land

owned by Zimbabwe Rhodesia's

6,000 predominantly white com-

mercial farmers could be made

available immediately for resettle-

ment by Africans, Mr Dens

Norman, president of the United

farmers Union said here

today.

He gave a warning

that any transfer of land from

white to black ownership

should be done only for pro-

ductive and not political

reasons.

Mr Norman was addressing a

press conference to restate the

position of the white farming

community on the key question

of land ownership.

He said the union was in

favour of a significant resettle-

ment programme for prospective

black farmers, but that this

should be carried out on a

carefully planned basis.

"And," he said, "is the most

important issue in this country.

If it is tackled properly then

Zimbabwe Rhodesia could be-

come the envy not only of the

rest of Africa but the world. If

it is not then there will be

chaos and disaster."

To underline the importance

of the land question Mr Nor-

man pointed out that the

efficiency of the Agricultural

sector not only meant Zimbabwe

Rhodesia was self-sufficient in

foodstuffs, but that food ex-

ports accounted for half the

country's foreign exchange

earnings.

The main thrust of Mr Nor-

man's case was that the present

commercial farming sector (i.e.

the white farmers) should be

left more or less untouched

except where land was needed

for planned agricultural de-

velopment or resettlement

schemes. In cases where land

had to be expropriated, fair

and adequate compensation

should be paid.

Mr Norman said there was a

lot

of

ART GALLERIES

WARD GALLERY, 101 COVENT GARDEN, LONDON WC2E 7HT. Tel: 01-580 3711. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm; Sun, 2-5pm. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm. Tel: 01-580 3711.

VRE GALLERY, 20 Brancaster St., London WC1X 8JZ. An exhibition of drawings by John Minton, 1930-75. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm. Tel: 01-580 3711.

13 OLD BOND ST. Exhibitions of Masters English Paintings. Tel: 01-580 3711.

GALLERIES, The Mall, SW1. Tel: 01-580 3711. An exhibition of illustrations. Galleries Agents. Tel: 01-580 3711.

BOROUGH, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711. An exhibition of prints by Graham Sutherland. Tel: 01-580 3711.

NEWHAM LTD., 38 Duke Street, London SW1. Tel: 01-580 3711. Tel: 01-580 3711.

OWEN SINGER, Fine English Paintings. Tel: 01-580 3711.

BITING SOMERSET HOUSE ART TRUST, 100 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

SHINODA AND IWAMI TWO CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS OF THE JAPANESE PRINT, 11 November-18 December. Tel: 01-580 3711.

LINE HENDERSON GALLERY, 59 Mount Street, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

HORNBY GALLERIES, 11 Melcombe St., London SW1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

THE GALLERIES, 140 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

ROYAL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, 52 Piccadilly, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Piccadilly, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

1. POST IMPRESSIONISM, 11 March-10 April. Open daily 10am-5pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing. Price £1. Children and over 65s, 50p. Sun, 10am-6pm.

2. ROMANTIC PAINTING & PHOTOGRAPHY, 1-10 April. Open 10am-5pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing. Price £1. Children and over 65s, 50p. Sun, 10am-6pm.

3. WATERCOLOURS, 1-10 April. Open 10am-5pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing. Price £1. Children and over 65s, 50p. Sun, 10am-6pm.

4. ROYAL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, 52 Piccadilly, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

5. THE ART OF HOLBEIN, Until 10 April. Open 10am-5pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing. Price £1. Children and over 65s, 50p. Sun, 10am-6pm.

6. ROYAL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, 52 Piccadilly, London W1. Tel: 01-580 3711.

7. DEATHTRAP, By Gareth Hunt. Tel: 01-580 3711.

8. THE OUTSIDER, By John Percival. Tel: 01-580 3711.

9. THE BEST THRILLER, By Gareth Hunt. Tel: 01-580 3711.

10. GARRICK THEATRE, Tel: 01-580 3711.

THE ARTS

Il furioso
Queen Elizabeth Hall

William Mann

The forty-third of Donizetti's 70 operas, *Il furioso all'isola di San Domingo*, was composed for the Teatro Valle in Rome, shortly after *L'elisir d'amore*, shortly before *Tosca*. *Tasso* (revised in a few years ago) and *Lucrèce Borgia*. The premiere in January, 1833, was greatly successful, and when the triumph was repeated at La Scala, Milan, *Il furioso* began to go the rounds of the major European opera houses. It reached London in December, 1836, with a production at the Lyceum Theatre. Since then we have seen nothing of it until Saturday night, when Donizetti's Society and Leslie Head's "Pro-Opera" venture gave a concert performance to support the Dominican Hurricane Relief Fund.

Apart from the topical relevance and the occurrence of two tropical storms in the course of the opera, *Il furioso* has retained some fame for its unusual characterization of its hero, a young married man driven to distraction by his wife's infidelities, who has left home in Spain (the plot derived from an episode in Cervantes's *Don Quixote*) to sojourn on San Domingo. Most unconventional, Donizetti assigned the part to a baritone, a species of voice only recently arrived in music and normally restricted to villains and fathers. The distracted Cardenio has a long, tiring and extremely varied part, vividly taken in his performance by Terence Sharpe.

The piece is formally individual in that it contains only four arias, one for each of the three "principals" (husband, brother, wife), and a rondo for the soprano wife, much indebted to that in Rossini's *Cenerentola* (Britten also, by Ferrer). The rest is all recitatives, far from dry, ensembles, particularly duets, and melancholic music somewhere in between. The finest piece of it is a duet in which the hero persuades a black slave (a comic bass part taken with irresistible sparkle by Frank Olliver) to part with the two pieces of gold he is carrying to a local chieftain; it may be compared, not unfairly, with Verdi's scene in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, "Cheat, cheat" in *Don Pasquale*.

For all its musical interest, the opera seemed long, partly because we were not seeing it partly, because both Luis McDonald and Eduardo Velasco marshalled their attractive singing to splashes of raw or unsteady vocalization; and partly because Mr. Head, conducting with habitual fervour, obtained only a heavy, lack-luster performance.

Pleasant though the engravings are, and indicative of Turner's powers of sheer composition, even when colour was

Vienna Turn of the Century

Fischer Fine Art

Turner Loan Exhibition
Agnew

The Classical Ideal
David Carritt

Graham Sutherland's Bestiary

Marlborough Fine Art

Alison Britton

Crafts Council Gallery

Keith Milow

Rowan Gallery

November is usually madness in the London galleries, early shows of possible (or often, financially speaking, impossible) Christmas presents vying with the work of new artists, fanciful and/or scholarly assemblages from the art of the past and chances to catch up with what the modern classics have recently been about. This year is no exception, and, at the risk of sounding like the best one can do is point in as many different directions as predictable and hope there will be something for every taste.

Very much in my own is the show of Art and Design from turn-of-the-century Vienna at Fischer's. It includes, naturally, some of the big names in painting like Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, mostly with small or slight works—drawings, graphics—which yet indicate vividly, perhaps because they are so easy and unconsidered, the artists' effortless mastery. But the great advantage of this particular show is that it does create a whole ambience for these works, with generous displays of furniture, glass, silverware and textile designs by friends and contemporaries. Of particular interest in the series of designs by Koloman Moser for stained glass in the Kirche am Steinhof, Vienna, a curious and effective meeting of Pre-Raphaelite and Art Nouveau sensibilities. There are also some beautifully restrained furniture by Moser, the strict, recumbent silverware of Josef Hoffmann, and a lot of sketches for fabrics by lesser-known, mostly female, members of the Wiener Werkstätte, which often look forward (not always all that hap-

denied him, it is the water-colours which really dazzle and amaze. Look, for example, at the way he captured that fugitive golden light which comes sometimes just after heavy rain in the evenings of Stamford High Street. Or the apocryphal storm which rages around Salisbury Cathedral, leaving it philosophically unmoved. Or observe his eye for novelty and oddity: the newly-developed terrace which sticks out like a sore thumb above the river at Exeter, or the extraordinary notion of drawing Harlech Castle from above, when practically anyone else would have stressed its craggy subtlety below.

In his introduction to the catalogue of *The Classical Ideal* David Carritt explains how the exhibition came about from a chance relationship perceived between a Roman-Egyptian portrait and a neoclassical Picasso. The result is a small but far-ranging collection of drawings and paintings which follow the pursuit of a classical ideal in depictions of the human face and figure through about 2,500 years. Not that everything is all that idealized; it is not difficult to see why David should have been

criticized for his pudgy and rather saucy-like Cupid, while the Seated Male Nude from late fifteenth-century North Italy does carry with it an extraordinary sense of intense physical presence. Many other things, like the small and mysterious Bellini allegory (of what?) the amazingly formalized early portrait of his wife by Cézanne and the immaculately finished Ingres *Odalisque*, are rare and beautiful, and one or two, such as Louis Gauffier's *Portrait of a Lady* or Picasso's *Saltimbanque*, are so unashamedly pretty that they banish all resistance.

It is not often that one could use the term "pretty" of Graham Sutherland's work, but several of his new series of aquatints suggested by verses from Apollinaire's *Bestiary* do fit the word perfectly. And none the worse for that.

Charm is a quality not much prized these days, even though its absence is regularly deplored. Sutherland's drawings of animals—the cosier sorts of animals, anyway—have always had an oddity and appropriateness about them, and one would say of them, "How nice, how funny, how well drawn!"

Indeed, there was enough mutual confidence for the partners to vary repetitions effectively or to adopt subtly different approaches in the Finale, the orchestra ebullient, the piano not quite so certain. And no one in a packed hall will have missed a cadenza from Mr Ashkenazy, who was throughout his great power of the quirky world of their own.

The references in Keith Milow's latest group of—well, I suppose one must call them sculptures, for want of a better word—are quite clear. He has moved on from the crosses which so impressively peopled the Round House Gallery last year to Cenotaphs, courtesy of Sir Edwin Lutyens. There is something like disorientation about seeing the rust-coloured memorials tipped on their sides, and in one case paired in head-on collision across a room, rather like the machine in *Bride of Frankenstein*, leaving it philosophically unmoved. Or observe his eye for novelty and oddity: the newly-developed terrace which sticks out like a sore thumb above the river at Exeter, or the extraordinary notion of drawing Harlech Castle from above, when practically anyone else would have stressed its craggy subtlety below.

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After the revolt at Mecca—even greater concern over oil supplies

Saudi Arabia: the West's nightmare

The revolt in the Mosque at Mecca last week should send a shiver of warning through the oil consuming world. Revolution in Saudi Arabia is the oil companies' waking nightmare. Despite the instability of much of the Middle East the ruling house of Saudi has looked unshakable. Opposition has been minimal. Disruption, though not unthinkable, was best not thought about because the consequences would be so great.

The events in the Mosque are not going to be followed by immediate revolution. Nevertheless they have shown that Saudi Arabia is not immune from the unrest which has been sweeping Islam. Saudi Arabia is not Iran. It does not have the same seeds for discontent, the same urban poor, it is less industrialized, less populated, and most of its people are of a different sect to the Muslims who hold the Americans hostage in Tehran.

The House of Saudi remains to control, but the evidence, what there is of it, shows that the breakout of internal dissent expressed in Mecca is rooted in the same anti-materialist feeling which has swept Iran and that, in the most prolific oil producing country in the world, is grim thought.

Economically, the most serious expression for the West of that anti-materialist feeling has been the near halving of supply is reflected by the con-

tinuing rise in prices. This could cause difficulties in itself. Iran is earning more from its three million barrels of exports a day now than it was from nearly twice that quantity under the Shah. If it were not necessary to produce so much to bring in income a year ago, it is not necessary to produce as much as it is doing now.

Iran might reduce its production by the 700,000 barrels a day it sent to the United States. The Americans can manage. The worry is that under Ayatollah Khomeini, the country is continuing to rest on the edge of collapse.

It is in that situation that the problems in Saudi Arabia have added a new dimension. Could the Ayatollah stir up the Shi'ite workers in the Saudi oilfields? Might Islamic fervour break out in Saudi Arabia in more extreme form and endanger either the present regime or the level of oil production?

Saudi Arabia has remained a good friend to the West and to the United States, to which, through the partners in the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), it supplies about a quarter of America's imports, but it is increasingly isolated within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The days when Saudi Arabia was going to expand its production to meet the increasingly voracious appetite of the West have gone, but it is still producing one million barrels a day

more than it would like to help alleviate the strains caused by the cutback in Iran, and it is still charging at \$18 a barrel, \$5.50 less than any other OPEC country for a comparable crude.

It is under pressure at home. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the oil minister, has referred to "young Turks" in the kingdom who would like to see it produce only five million barrels a day; and some other Arab nations see it as being too friendly to the United States while the Camp David accord has left the Palestine question unresolved.

Iran, having cut its consumption in two, the Saudis can no longer threaten to flood the world market with oil and drive prices down. For both practical and political reasons, it has become impossible.

The oil consuming countries could not withstand a reduction in supplies of 4.5 million barrels a day without very painful action. The International Energy Agency's compulsory sharing scheme and the parallel EEC scheme would come into operation as any member reported a seven per cent cut in supplies. A Saudi cutback spurred by the "young Turks" to five million barrels a day would create such hardship. No one is saying it will happen, just that it can no longer be dismissed out of hand.

The IEA scheme, which

works on equal misery for all, has never been used. Earlier this year, the United Kingdom lost up to five per cent of

supplies. The misery with a Saudi cutback would be much worse. The question would be how long countries like Britain with their own supplies would agree to go on exporting and sharing the misery.

If Saudi Arabia or Iran were to fall out of the picture completely there would be aphony war period of three months while supplies in tankers were delivered. It would give the IEA countries time to think.

But the fact is that a permanent loss of oil on the scale of a Saudi cutback to five million barrels a day would be very difficult to live with. Neither substitution nor conservation could take place fast enough to allow the effects. A revolution in Saudi Arabia, if it can supplies for very long, would, in effect, be a catastrophe. The world would have the three-month grace period to sort itself out.

The United States imports almost twice as much oil as it did during the embargo following the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

There would be pressure to seek a "military solution" which would have incalculable consequences even if it succeeded in the immediate objective.

It is to be hoped that the nightmare remains just that: a nightmare.

Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Can Britain afford a deterrent?

Mrs Thatcher will travel to Washington on December 17, dreaming of the kind of present that even Father Christmas might find hard to provide. But she is unlikely to come away empty-handed. What she would really like from President Carter is an offer to sell Britain a new strategic missile at a price comparable to the bargain struck by Macmillan over Polaris in 1972.

What she can more realistically hope for is an American promise to do business at a cost which the Government feels it could just afford.

Ministers questioned about the Polaris succession in the 1970s argue persistently that their options remain open and that no decision is likely until next year. This would still give the Government ample time to finalize the deal before the presidential election—which could install a less amenable figure in the White House.

And by then the Americans might have made decisions of their own about their air-launched cruise missile which would be significant in the most extreme circumstances. On the other hand, if Britain is to have a deterrent at all, it must be credible.

The addition of a fifth submarine, and the huge multiplication in the number of targets which is promised by the introduction of MIRVs, simply increases the risks for any potential aggressor.

It has been argued that Polaris could be further refined, even after the completion of the current Polaris Improvement Programme, to maintain it as a credible deterrent in the next century. Had Labour been returned to power in the last election this is an option which Mr Callaghan, faced with a growing opposition to a deterrent of any kind, might have found easier to take. But a new batch of submarines would be necessary anyway, and the Ministry of Defence argues that the dif-

ference in cost would not be all that great.

The Americans are due to phase out the last of their Polaris missiles in the 1980s anyway so Britain might lose the back-up facilities which it now enjoys. In the long run it might be cheaper—and certainly simpler—to keep more or less in step with the American programme.

But can Britain afford a deterrent at all? The Trident-I package, including the submarines and warheads, which would be built in Britain, would cost between £4,000m and £6,000m, spread over a period of 10 to 12 years.

Those in favour argue that even during the peak years of the programme it would absorb only 7 per cent of the annual defence budget. Those against point out that as a proportion of the procurement budget it would be far higher than that. So can Britain afford to spend so much upon a weapon that is unlikely ever to be used?

There is certainly a respectable case to be made out for spending what money Britain can afford, on conventional weapons instead—perhaps another armoured division for the British Army of the Rhine, or improved Britain's defences or on more warships for the Royal Navy. But it is debatable whether Britain could find the men to man many more conventional weapon systems than it has—even at a time of high unemployment.

The Royal Navy will have

to think hard about finding the two crews necessary for a fifth ballistic missile submarine anyway. Nor are conventional weapons exactly cheap, and the Tornado aircraft programme for the RAF is actually more expensive than Trident-I.

Proposers contend that as a last resort weapon to ensure, as far as one can, the integrity of the United Kingdom, the deterrent is the most cost-effective, single

solution.

The British deterrent is confined to Nas, although in the unlikely event of a threat to Britain alone, it would be used as a national weapon. How far any British Prime Minister might feel prepared to invite national suicide for the sake of, say, Hamburg or Amsterdam, is one of those imponderables which one hopes will never be answered. The important point is that he might—and that is uncertainty which makes deterrence work.

But it is probably the less rational fear of the unknown that has persuaded successive British governments to keep their strategic weapons in good shape. Britain has had a nuclear deterrent for so long that no one can accurately assess what would be the effect, if it is unilaterally disbanded, on Britain's status, its technology and its feeling of security. The responsibility of replacing Polaris is easier for the Government to bear than the responsibility of changing direction.

Mrs Thatcher will certainly

try to Washington with few doubts in her mind. Christmas seems an oddly inappropriate season in which to talk about nuclear weapons. But the Prime Minister would no doubt contend that she goes in confident that she is heavily dependent upon America's good will.

Henry Stanshope
Defence Correspondent

Polaris... what next?

fit to Washington with few doubts in her mind. Christmas seems an oddly inappropriate season in which to talk about nuclear weapons. But the Prime Minister is always willing to be taken by those individuals, whereas in truth they are more and more rarely even rated on their behalf. And so far as the tendency goes, that is to make the idea that there is no such thing as an "abstraction called 'society'" but only the sum

That Blunt interview: a scoop is a scoop

That Blunt interview: a scoop is a scoop

David Leigh of *The Guardian*, who went to King's, had a similar background. He rarely wears a suit, and his reporting suggests that he is an anti-Establishment journalist. One of his recent scoops was the story on jury vetting.

I was born in London's East End, and had the signal honour of attending the Highgate elementary school opposite the No 10 end of the old London docks and St George's central school in Cable Street before quitting and eventually to Downing College.

age of 18. I allow that I had

a wonderful start, but then we cannot all be born lucky.

I concede that we were polite during the interview. We invariably ask and from experience we know that information cannot be bludgeoned out of a man such as Mr Blunt, or any other person for that matter. Of course, we did not get to the whole truth, whatever that may be. Journalists, and indeed pillars, rarely do.

I would suggest, however, that our interview produced some interesting information. The man revealed himself, if only partly. I do not think that a Fleet Street "heavy" writing a chequered back-page political column is prepared to have offered £50,000—should have done the job much better.

Finally, that smoked trout. When I first interviewed Mr Machemer soon after he emerged from the underground in Tel Aviv, in 1948, we ate gefilte fish, and later when I interviewed Mr Khrushchev we shared some pickled herring with the vodka. Arguably these

two men were responsible for more deaths than Mr Blunt, but I said at the beginning of the interview, I was not there to moralise.

I am a reporter whose job is to find out what really happened; a job, might add, which is more important than moralising.

That said, I was pleased to be served trout. I had expected sandwiches, but, fortunately, Edward Heath was being entertained in an adjoining room at Paul, the steward, took pity

on the full Blunt interview and published it, but I have to say, it is good to know that Fleet Street is still so competitive.

We must be the only competitive industry in the country. Second, our readers should be happy to know that in our 195 year *The Times* is still as lively and news-conscious as in the days of Thomas Barnes, an

William Howard Russell.

Louis Her

old days they knew what I do... and gave a fearsome meaning look, evoking shivers.

Incidentally, and apropos of Bluntgate, I wonder what is the mind of John Le Carré, the man who has done more for me than Kenneth Grahame? I am not the first to wonder. His agent says there have been dozens of calls, and Mr Le Carré says he does not want to speculate or be drawn into discussion about a certain current event.

Three point joint

Several people report they have fallen victim to a metal strait. Certain supermarket chains are marketing goods in pounds and decimals of a pound. For example, I have seen a Sainsbury's loaf marking a joint of meat at 3.1. Naturally enough this was taken to mean 3lb 15oz, although the real weight is 3.15lb. There is a small print a note about this on the label. But the price is, nevertheless, misleading and I doubt that customers are best served by it.

Trevor Fishlock



"What did you eat in the Suez war, lad?"



YOUR HELP is a matter of life and death in KAMPUCHEA

Red Cross supplies of food and medicines are reaching Kampuchea every day. The urgent need is to continue building up quantities and to extend distribution.

As an independent voluntary relief organisation, we need more cash to do this. Please help us by sending as much as you can, as quickly as you can.

An up-to-date progress report on the Red Cross relief operation in Kampuchea (Cambodia) will be sent on request. (5s appreciated)

The Red Cross

British Red Cross Kampuchea Appeal, Dept. T18
9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ.

(If you require receipt, please enclose SAE)
Enclose £_____ as my contribution to the Kampuchea Appeal

Name _____
Address _____

likely to be recommended before Christmas. But secretaries fear that Mrs Thatcher, having lost in the argument over MP salaries, will try to block an increase in allowances. They also fear that if MP accountability is part of the proposal, some MPs will try to block it so that their gravy does not dry up.

Secretaries are ready to put down the collective foot. Militancy is strengthened by new secretaries who came in with the new Tory MPs. They were from the world of commerce and were horrified at the conditions of their Commons' supporters: no recognition, no security, no pension, hard work, poor pay, absolute dependence on an MP's honour as an employer.

"Many are sweet, but some are pigs," I was told. Permanent members are on the black list. The names can be made known to any aspiring secretary and they spare a nice girl a life of ill-paid wretchedness.

Tory Welsh

Five Tory councillors in South Wales now take proper because Conservative Central Office has paid £100 for them to have a weeks' election course.

Miss Katherine Edwards, their teacher, diagnosed grammar defects, dropped anchor as it happens, an increase is

and chronic Cardiff accents, certainly severe weaknesses in a party led by the lord high elocutionist herself.

Week after week, the Del Dooliths were made by their young lady Higgins to stand at the end of a room, like men before a firing squad, and clean their vowels by reciting journalism.

This explains the wild reaction of other national newspapers. They were scooped, and they knew it. I spent hours negotiating with Mr Blunt's representative; and unless some of those who claimed to be morally outraged did not offer to pay a penny for the interview.

There were no conditions. All Mr Blunt's representative asked was whether we could provide his client with some food. Then

he insisted that *The Guardian* participate in the interview. I was willing to be taken by ear, and less happy about *The Guardian*, but half a scoop was better than none.

A second charge was that we were journalistic sunnucks, only willing to allow Mr Blunt to twist truth round his little finger. Admittedly two of us were Cambridge men, Stewart and the Clegg Reporters of *The Sunday Times*, the son of an East End Jewish tailor, who went to a local grammar school and eventually to Downing College.

I allow that I had

ing a close quarters experience, is not unknown to marriage in some respects and men may be maddened by idiosyncrasies.

This is why *Yachting Monthly* is put editorial resources behind its Great Teabag Throwing Competition. The need is for a machine to eject teabags cleanly from cabin to sea; and already readers have submitted almost a score of devices, many of them ingenious variations on the original ballistics. Mr Desmond Sloggett, the editor, tells me there will be a grand shoot-off at St Katharine's Dock next year.

Teabags disposed by laboratory is rejected. Many a boat's laboratory would choose a resealable bag, and only a rubber band and a seal of tape would do.

Teabags are not the only items

which can be transported clean, in glass, tins, bottles, jars and containers, have no place in a proper yacht, being essentially unsophisticated.

Teabags disposed by laboratory

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AT STAKE: 100,000 JOBS

week ago last Monday, Sir Michael Edwards and senior members of British Leyland's board formally announced their decision to dismiss Longbridge's union, Mr Derek Robinson. On grounds of industrial misconduct, that time Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, has accepted the resignations of Sir Michael Murphy and his colleagues at the National Enterprise Board, which oversees British Leyland's affairs, and replaced them with a new team; many British Leyland car units have either stopped producing vehicles or have had their activities severely cut back; Mr Terence Duffy, president of Mr Robinson's union, threatened to sanctify the official actions taken against the convenor's dismissal; and, like-minded have indicated that.

Michael and his men might themselves resign if they could manage the company. To stop Sir Harold Wilson's well-remembered phrase, a week can a long time in industry. The reaction that has followed is that Leyland's decision was to be expected. The sacking of so useful a trade unionist as Mr Robinson by so large and able an undertaking as Leyland is virtually without parallel in recent industrial history. Yet all the best the action has created, it had become almost inevitable. If British Leyland were to have a chance of surviving, they had to make a stand against the increasing strength of militants within the ranks of organized labour. That the responsibility lies on the shoulders of Sir Michael is not surprising. During his stewardship at British Leyland, he has shown himself to be a remarkably forthright and resolute man. Given the size of the problem he has in restoring Britain's only remaining car producer to prosperity, and his consequent reliance on Government support,

your gift problems solved with
VICTORIA WINE
CHRISTMAS GIFT TOKENS
Over 1000 gift tokens available
including British & Foreign Regions for
you to personalise and send with every token.
A gift card and envelope with every token.
Available for a wide range of wines, spirits,
cigarettes and cigars.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

THE SCOTCH
OF A LIFETIME
The
Buchanan
Blend

Stock markets

FT Ind 407.1, down 1.5
FT Gics 64.09, down
0.39

Sterling

\$2.1625 up 25 points
Index 69.1 down 0.1

Dollar

Index 86.8 down 0.2

Gold

\$3944 an ounce \$2.375

3-month money

Inter-bank 16.13/16 to
16.15/16
Euro \$13.7 to 14

IN BRIEF

ATA chief es grim tlook for lines

Lines will finish 1979 with
a 7.5% deficiency of 7.5
per cent of operating revenue
as a result of inflationary
increases in fares.

Mr Knut Hammarjöld,
general of the International
Air Transport Association,
says in his annual review
of the air transport
industry:

"For the fifth year
in a row, air traffic
is generally showing
increases in traffic and
factors". Mr Hammarjöld
states. "However, we
have a sombre economic
background, with expected recession
in the United States, a slow
in the average GNP
rate to around 2 per cent
in the most advanced industrialized economies,
and economic growth for
developing countries in
Asia and Latin America,
ineven prospects in the
East."

Such a downturn in business
would well be reflected in
terms in shrinking airline
incomes and a reduced
load factor for air travel. An
airline's question mark hovering
over future fuel costs, while
fuel and enroute charges
are to start."

X merger on

Exploration and London
Scottish Marine Oil are
to go ahead with their
merger. The mystery
bidder has withdrawn and
Exploration is recommending
shareholders to accept the
offer. Oil Exploration
lost 104p to 690p on the
Financial Editor, page 17

3rd wine sales

Wine sales in the United
Kingdom are expected to reach
record levels this year, with
export tonnages more
than 100 million gallons, says
Vine and Spirit Association.
Christmas sales in the
quarter should increase
overall growth rate to at
least 15 per cent.

Canadian links

Jo-Canadian talks at
a joint level on stepping up
direct flights between
Canada and the booming
Alberta province of Alberta
will be held in January, Mr
Parkinson, Minister of
Trade, announced on
return from a five-day
visit yesterday.

sh coal protest

Joint talks with the
Welsh Coal Board and British
over controversial plans to
coking coal are wanted
by Welsh TUC, which is
ad that extra shipments
of several Welsh coking
close.

I stoppage

work on open cast coal
sites is expected to stop
when members of the
Port and General Workers'
the second of four
ad one-day strikes in support
of a pay claim. An esti-
150,000 tons of coal pro-
duced will be lost.

p for home buyers

Building Societies Associa-
tion has published a free
Building Societies and
e-Purchase, providing
information for buy-
ers and investors.

Cut in lending rate by American bank sparks speculation of recession

From Frank Vogl
in Washington

Bankers' Trust of New York
became the first major commercial
bank in the United States
today to cut interest rates. The
decision has sparked speculation
that rates here have peaked and
are headed downwards.

Bankers' Trust cut its prime
lending rate to 15.1 per cent
from 15.4 per cent. The record
15.4 per cent level was only
established on a nationwide basis last week. Since midsum-
mer American rates have increased
by more than 4 per cent and the rise has been particularly sharp since the Federal Reserve Board announced credit
tightening moves on October 6.

Expectations of falling rates
and the Bankers' Trust action
overshadowed concern about
the United States-Iranian crisis
and changes in monetary policy.

In the first three hours of
trading the volume was a heavy
26 million shares changing
hands as the average gain per
common share was 51 cents and
as the Dow Jones Industrial
Index rose 14.25 points to

The belief that interest rates
have peaked rests upon recent
bank loan demand figures and market interpretations of Federal Reserve Board thinking.

Several Wall Street brokers
suggest that the long-heralded
recession has started. The
hardest evidence is the latest
banking data from the New
York Federal Reserve. Bank
commercial loan demand fell
\$364m in the last month of the
week to New York's main
bank.

The brokers believe that the
Federal Reserve Bank sees the
recession developing and has
decided modestly to relax its
credit squeeze.

It could be that some brokers
are reading too much into the
recent cuts in loan demand.
There is still no evidence of a
decline in the 13 per cent inflation
rate or any sign of a significant
decline against some leading European currencies.

The dollar is still being under-
mined by the unresolved crisis
in Iran.

There were reports that Iran
intends to pay for its imports
in the currency of the exporting
country rather than dollars.
Some dealers believe that Iran

is busy converting all the dollars
it can into other currencies.

The dollar dropped against
the Deutsche mark to DM1.749
from DM1.7615 on Friday and also
lost ground against a basket of currencies. Sterling closed
marginally higher against the dollar at \$2.1625 after falling
below \$2.15 early in the day.

There is now some uncertainty
in the market about how
about the trend gains momentum. But
so far sterling has held its
present levels given the very
poor prospects for the balance of payments next year.

Peter Wainwright writes: Gil-
edged securities were harden-
ing in late dealings yesterday
after Bankers' Trust cut its
rates.

Dealers last night thought
that stocks would try to go bet-
ter this morning, especially if
the trend gains momentum. But
so far gilt prices were up to £1
off the top today.

They were bought down by the
Friday announcement of a fur-
ther long tap, £1,000m of Treasury
14 per cent 1998-2001, con-
tinuing tension in Iran, labour
trouble at Leyland, wage in-
creases in excess of 20 per cent
and disparity with last week's
forecasts from the Treasury.

Guaranteed loans plan for small businesses

By Bryan Appleyard
A new scheme involving pen-
sion funds in providing guaran-
teed loans for small businesses
could be posed to win accep-
tance from banks and the Gov-
ernment.

The plan, devised by two
accountants, is to be presented
to Conservative MPs tomorrow
at the House of Commons at a
meeting of the Tory Small
Businesses Committee. Initial
reactions have been favourable
because the scheme overcomes
Conservative objections any
system of loan guarantees
involves an unacceptable level
of intervention in private
enterprise.

The devisers are Mr Barry
Baldwin, a partner in account-
ants Price Waterhouse in
charge of the firm's Special
Services Group, and Mr Chris-
topher Kirkham-Sandy, a
senior tax manager with the
Treasury.

The main aim of the scheme
is to overcome the problem that
British banks tend to require
security for loans by a charge
on personal or business assets
or a guarantee by the
proprietor, relative or friend.
The accountants say that many
viable small businesses cannot
borrow money solely because
they cannot provide an ade-
quate level of security or
guarantees.

Under the proposals a bank,
confronted with a loan request
from a viable business with in-
sufficient security, could ask
the Government to guarantee
for example 75 per cent of the
loan, the rest being borne un-
secured by the bank.

The bank would pay the
Government a guarantee fee of
1 per cent per annum on the
principal and would manage
the loan, the guarantee fee
and, in cases of default, would
be responsible for recovering
both the loan and the accrued
interest.

The accountants estimate
that £100m lent on this system
would create 10,000 new jobs
worth about £8m in income tax

THE SMALL BUSINESS BUREAU



Mr David Mitchell outside the Small Businesses Bureau: loan
guarantees are a possible method of aid.

and £12m in saved unemploy-
ment and social security pay-
ments. It would require few
civil servants to run and the
money supply would not be
jeopardized as the loan money
would be supplied by pension
funds.

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worth about £8m in income tax

and prices are involved. The
proportion of tax in gas prices
is highest in France, at 15 per
cent, and lowest in the United
Kingdom where there is no tax
element at all.

The Commission has no power
to insist on changes being made
and can only recommend action
to member states. On past per-
formance, there is likely to be
more talking than action.

Commons reply. Any attempt to
meet a surge in the demand for
gas caused by soaring oil prices
could lead to supply interruptions.

Mr Howell warned today in a written Commons reply. He
said: "The British Gas Corpora-
tion is advancing extra sums
for capital investment to pro-
vide greater capacity. And it
will be paying four to six times
as much for future gas out of
the North Sea as it pays under
existing contracts for older gas
fields."

He added that the "unavoid-
able move to higher energy
prices" which this meant
must be gradual and gradual.
But he said it was impossible to
be insulated from the need for
greater consistency in all
energy pricing.

Dearer gas is first step towards consistent EEC energy pricing

From Nicholas Hirst

The European Commission
believes that gas prices in most
EEC countries are too low, and
is likely to recommend increases
next year.

The CBI reports that demand
is weakest for producers of in-
termEDIATE goods and for large
companies employing more than
5,000 people. Predictably, there
has been a fairly strong re-
covery reported by the mech-
anical engineering sector.

Future prospects remain
distinctly bleak with signs of
steep price increases and de-
creasing competitiveness over-
seas. A higher proportion of
manufacturers (67 per cent
compared with 60 per cent)
expect to charge more for their
goods during the next four
months and the general expec-
tation is that activity will
decline next year as a result
of falling demand both at home
and abroad.

One of the most worrying
trends for exporters is the con-
tinuing increase in the United
Kingdom unit labour costs rela-
tive to those of the main over-
seas competitors.

The latest survey shows a sharp decline
in competitiveness compared with
the September index, the first to be included in the sur-
vey.

Taking 1975 as a base the
latest CBI figures for unit lab-
our costs in manufacturing are
about 25 per cent higher than
those of equivalent overseas
manufacturers compared with
a 20 per cent level recorded at
the end of September.

If trends in pay and produc-
tivity continue at the rates of
the last two years, the CBI's
forecasts suggest that produc-
tion will continue to decline in
the United Kingdom after 1980.
However, increases were com-
pared to the average levels of
the 1950s and 1960s it would be
possible to return to a rate of
economic growth sufficient to
double output over 25 years.

Overall, the forecasters
expect "real" pre-tax return
on profits to be below three per
cent this year and below two
per cent next year. This, they
say, would be the worst re-
corded figure and could cause
considerable damage to invest-
ment.

New Times said the EEC had
not gone beyond the idea of
establishing only working
relations between the two organiza-
tions. Leaving our trade and
economic questions did not
hold out promise of fast
progress.

The Russians accuse the
nine EEC members of being
more interested only in working
relations with the Comecon
secretariat to exchange information
on minor matters.

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nine EEC members of being
more interested only in working
relations with the Comecon
secretariat to exchange information
on minor matters.

The main reason for the Ind
Cooper policy changes is that
its volume growth has not
been as great as had been
hoped, although the company
has been maintaining its previous
position in the growth league.

The big brewer's growth has
been markedly below that of the smaller brew-
eries with their local appeal.

Smaller brewers have been see-
ing growth rates of about 6
per cent compared with in-
creases of less than 1 per cent
by the big brewers.

Wimsey Mann and Truman,
part of Grand Metropolitan,
have been introducing more
local names for draught ales,
reviving among others Mams
and Temples.

Derek Harris

Globe Investment Trust LIMITED

Interim Report (audited) for the six months ended 30th Sept. 1979

Earnings

	Six months ended 30th September 1979	1978
Gross group revenue	£11,432,000	£9,857,000
Group earnings before taxation	£8,771,000	£8,422,000
Taxation	3,346,000	3,105,000
Group earnings after taxation	£6,425,000	£5,317,000
Minority interests	£16,000	412,000
Earnings attributable to Ordinary Stockholders	£5,909,000	£4,905,000

Interim Dividends

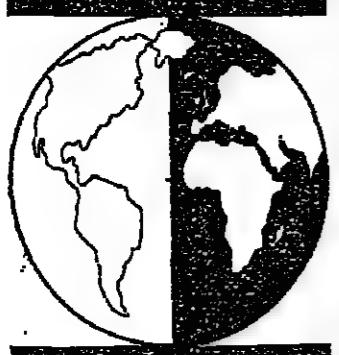
An interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1980 of 2.75p per Ordinary Stock Unit (1978/79, 2.5p) and a special interim dividend, in respect of special dividends received by the Company, of 0.80p per Ordinary Stock Unit will both be paid on 31st January, 1980 to those persons registered as holders of the Stock at the close of business on 3rd January, 1980. Such dividends will absorb £5,765,014 (1978/79, £3,855,400). The Directors at present consider that they will be able to recommend the payment of a final dividend of 3.5p per Ordinary Stock Unit.

Assets

Investments at middle market
price or valuation

Net assets attributable to
Ordinary Stockholders

Net assets:
per Ordinary Stock Unit



Plea to hold down paper import quotas

The Government is being pressed to make a quick decision on the controversial 1980 level of duty-free quotas for imports of paper and board from Britain's former Eta partners. Worried United Kingdom paper industry leaders say that to protect domestic mills and jobs the quotas must not be increased.

While the British industry has contracted significantly in recent years, imports from Scandinavian countries have grown despite the application of duty on a small proportion of the total. Imports of all grades of paper and board from all countries have risen from 32 to 50 per cent of consumption, and the industry maintains that further import growth needs to be checked.

Officials of the British Paper and Board Industry Federation recently put their case to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, and his counterpart, Viscount Trenchard, at the Department of Industry. Despite some Whitehall sympathy, it is feared that the quotas will be lifted.

£148m plan to help Montedison offshoot

Montefibre Spa, Montedison's loss-making fibres subsidiary, will need £60,000m lire (about £148m) in new cash between now and the end of 1982 under a restructuring plan for which it is seeking bank and government approval, industry sources in Rome said.

Montefibre considers it could balance its books in 1981 or 1982 if the plan is approved, as long as its Acerra fibres plant near Naples is completed and there is an improvement in group productivity.

Gatt chief's request

Mr Olivier Long, the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade who is meeting in Geneva, has asked for a committee to continue negotiations on selective safeguards, the main unresolved issue in the Tokyo Round trade agreement.

French exports boom

France has overtaken Japan as the world's third largest exporting nation, according to figures prepared by the CNEF, the French Employers' Association. These show that exports, valued in dollars, have risen by 18 per cent this year.

Hongkong trade down

Hongkong recorded a visible trade deficit of SHK1,180,000m (£11,155m) in October (about £11,155m) compared with September's deficit of SHK597m and the SHK584m deficit in October last year, provisional figures show.

Japan's growth slows

Officials at the Japanese Economic Planning Agency say Japan's real economic growth is likely to be slower in fiscal 1980 than the 6 per cent officially estimated previously.

EEC Consumer index

European Community consumer price index rose 1.1 per cent in October over September, by 1.2 per cent year-on-year, sources report. This compared with a 1 per cent rise in September over August, and an 11.4 per cent increase on a yearly basis.

Prices up in France

French retail prices rose about 1.2 per cent in October, *Le Monde* reported yesterday. The rise would mark a sharp acceleration from the 0.8 per cent September gain.

Car record in Japan

Japan's vehicle production in October rose 12.5 per cent to a record 912,000 units from 811,000 in September, and 15.4 per cent from 790,000 in September last year, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said. The previous record was 852,000 in June this year.

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS LIMITED

Principal U.K. subsidiaries:
Adam & Harvey Limited
B. Ashworth & Co. (Overseas) Limited

Results for the year ended 31st March, 1979:

- * Group profit before tax, including share of profit of an associated company, £1,366,000 (1978—£1,276,000).
- * Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p: 17.5p (1978—14.3p).
- * Increased final dividend of 2.42052p per Ordinary Stock Unit (1978—2.11753p), making 3.27052p for the year (1978—2.86753p).

In his statement the Chairman, Major-General A. M. McKay, C.B., C.Eng., comments on the difficult trading conditions against which these improved profits were achieved. It is anticipated that the current year's results will not be unsatisfactory.

The main activities of the Group are those of export merchants, export managers for British manufacturers, confirming and financing, manufacturers and exporters of textiles, steel stockholders and exporters, importers and distributors of timber, footwear and agricultural machinery.

Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, 18th December, 1979.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, King's House, 36/37 King Street, London EC2V 8DR.

Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary at the Department of Trade, said in reply to a Commons question a few days ago that the Government was bound to "take account of the interests of the former Eta partners." Worried United Kingdom paper industry leaders say that to protect domestic mills and jobs the quotas must not be increased.

The whole issue of tariffs and quotas has been regarded as "a sharp thorn in our side" by the United Kingdom industry since the late 1960s, when Britain became vulnerable to duty-free competition from its new Eta partners of Sweden, Finland and Norway while the EEC countries were protected that further import growth needs to be checked.

When Britain joined the EEC in 1973, paper and board were treated as "especially sensitive" products and a complicated list of protective measures were written into trade agreements with the Eta countries. Britain was to reintroduce a rising scale of duties and the EEC was to reduce its tariff. When the two figures coincided

Major quota increases were granted in the bonus year of 1974, but when the predicted recession arrived, the size of the new quotas gave the Scandinavians almost totally free entry to the British market. Increases have been granted each year since 1974, although demand has not reached that year's level.

The United Kingdom market next year is expected at best to remain static with no significant upturn until 1981.

Paper and board imports from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal are expected this year to

be about 1.7 million tonnes against quotas totalling 1.4 million tonnes. Duty will be payable on some grades while quotas on others will not be exhausted.

The British industry is concerned particularly about the effect next year on production of wood-free printing and writing paper and card board, both made in large quantities in this country. The Scandinavians, it is claimed, have built new "speculative" capacity for a market that is already oversupplied.

Britain's printing industry, however, claims that it is under pressure from European printers who are able to buy paper that has not been subject to duty from within the EEC.

British paper producers argue that the Scandinavians rarely pass on to customers any duty they have to pay, and that the chief advantage of the present system is to encourage the Nordic manufacturers to seek other markets once the quotas have been exhausted.

Edward Townsend

Organize better, CBI urges exporters

By Patricia Fiddal, Correspondent

Exporters to the EEC must organize themselves better and press harder to remove non-tariff barriers such as differing standards to improve their trading record with the community. They should also attempt to establish a "local" presence wherever possible to overcome lack of confidence in British products.

These are two main conclusions of a survey commissioned by the Confederation of British Industry on how community membership has stayed competitive.

Sir Peter Tenant, chairman of the CBI working party said:

"Understanding of EEC animal should be the aim of more companies and their trade associations if they are to exert influence and solve some of the practical problems which stand in the way of greater sales."

A third suggestion, endorsed by Sir Peter, is for greater shop-floor involvement in exports. Commenting on the survey, he said that the presence of a trade union representative in a company sales team going abroad does something to counter the image of Britain as a land of strikes and late deliveries.

The two prototypes, which have started exhaustive tests, have been engineered by Colin Chapman at the Lotus headquarters in Norfolk. There are three other pre-production models at Lotus and the first pre-production cars assembled at Belfast will start tests in less than a month's time.

If all goes well production should start next summer and by late 1982 a total of 30,000 cars a year will be rolling off the assembly lines in Belfast. The first two full years of production has already been sold to dealers.

The basic questions which

have been raised are whether there is a market for such a car which incorporates some new features and whether an operation starting from scratch in the volatile atmosphere of Northern Ireland can produce the required number of cars of the quality required by the American market.

Mr John De Lorean is convinced the cynics will be proved wrong. He contends that there is a large market for the car in North America and the company is already looking for outlets in other regions of the United States.

De Lorean Motor Cars point to the fact that so far 320 dealers have signed up with every prospect of reaching their target of 400 US dealers in the near future. Each dealer has to buy \$25,000 of DMC common stock, provide a revolving letter of credit for \$100,000 and undertake to accept between 50 and 150 cars to dealers.



Mr John Z. De Lorean and his DMC-12: he denies that investment in the car is a high-risk venture.

Belfast car project under way

By David Felton

A group of Tory MPs is urging BL to drop its plans to close the MG assembly plant at Abingdon in Oxfordshire and transfer the MG marque to Triumph. The group wants to see the plant and the marque sold to a consortium headed by Aston Martin Lagonda.

Mr Robert Adley, chairman of the recently-formed MG Group in the Commons, said yesterday that he believed the negotiations with the consortium were a charade, and

that a year, depending on their size, Mr De Lorean has denied that investment in the new car is a high-risk venture, although in submissions filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission the company said that any prospective investor must be able and prepared, to lose all funds invested.

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Sell MG to Aston Martin, MPs say

By David Felton

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If all goes well production should start next summer and by late 1982 a total of 30,000 cars a year will be rolling off the assembly lines in Belfast. The first two full years of production has already been sold to dealers.

BL would then use Abingdon

as a receiving centre for kits from Honda, with whom the state-owned concern is to collaborate on a mid-range car.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gloom in gilts lightened in late dealings

Misery in the CBI monthly trends survey—it spoke of shortening order books and pressure on profits and finance—did nothing to enliven a market already saddened by industrial strife, wage deals in excess of 21 per cent, gloomy forecasts from the Treasury and Iran.

There is temporarily a glut of tap—there have been three taps in little more than a week—stock in the gilt edged market, designed to keep interest rates high and yesterday saw some tax loss selling. By the

try to go better this morning. Oils were again among the most active sectors, but yesterday for a change, most of the movement was down, rather than up thanks to the withdrawal of the mystery bidder in excess of 21 per cent, gloomy forecasts from the Treasury and Iran.

With the institutions tapped for more than £900m in little over a week ordinary shares were again overshadowed. Business was extremely thin but in terms of the FT Index equities gained 10p to 379p ahead of the third-quarter figures expected later this week while the new improved 7p to 171p. Shell were 4p better and Burmah put on a penny to 177p. Ultra-steel slipped 2p to 399p.

Among companies reporting Burnett & Hallamshire improved 10p to 440p following its interim statement and Dawson International rose 2p to 86p. J. E. Sanger remained fixed at 20p after its trading statement and Yarrow slipped 5p to 305p after some disappointing figures. Losses at Stag Line saw the shares fall 11p to 140p. Weekend comment helped A. Morris rise 4p to 44p, and Tarmac a penny to 180p, but Fitch Lovell and P. and O. both remained unchanged at 72p and 100p.

Friday's news that GEC's offer for Avery's had gone unconditional sent the latter's shares climbing 13p to 182p and Pisons and Pilkington Brothers both dipped 3p to 229p and 240p.

Most interest, however, continued to be centred on oil where the main announcement was taken between Oil Exploration and its mystery bidder, who had broken down sent the share price plummeting 10p to 690p. This in turn dragged merger partner LASMO down 28p to 365p. Other North Sea oil shares to drift included Cawdows 15p lower at 142p, International Thomsen 5p down at 374p, Atlantic Assets 12p easier at 134p and Imperial Continental Gas 3p higher at 610p. Weekend

close long-dated stocks were down a pound. Treasury 15 per cent 1982 closed 981. The issue price last week was 981.1. In shares Treasury 91 per cent 1983 slid 9p to 153.11.6 while its longer dated issues Treasury 11 per cent 2001-04 weakened 51p to 831.

However prices were attempting to harden in late trading as news trickled through of several United States prime rate cuts, including Crocker, St Louis County Bank and Bankers Trust. If the trend persists, the market will probably

recede as w any rain's name is easier to remember

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Dec. 1 N.Y. 150 Building Fund Dec. 3-5 Contingency Day Dec. 10 Settlement Day Dec. 1

6 Forward hearings are permitted on two previous days.

PORT

Olympic Games

Tillanin achieves his ambition as IOC vote in China's favour

John Hennessy

The fact that the vote clearly surpasses the two-thirds majority required for a change of rule, if that should become the norm, is a legal argument.

The irony of Taiwan's hosting is that the IOC has insisted these changes not merely to open the door for Peking but also to remove the rights for Taipei, Taiwan's, indigenous to Lake Placid for those events. They belong to the Chinese government and are expected to be welcomed by the other federations well before the Moscow Games in July and to be represented there on a large scale.

In view of their isolation for so long, they will be virtually a voyage of rediscovery, but Mrs Monica Berlouis, director of the IOC, had no doubt that it would be a powerful influence in world sport in the years to come.

Now Taiwan will have to provide a new emblem for the winter games.

It is the IOC's position, of which at the moment are based on old Nationalist Chinese standards.

For some time now there will be bitter pill-sucking over the absence of a split developing. The

division between the old guard and the new. Some members of the younger generation, born from the mainland, accept the right of the mainland to be represented in the world stage and many others, we hear, would be perfectly happy to sail under Taiwanese colours, rather than Chinese. But of course big political issues of state and the like are a small part.

The documents released here today show that Tillanin employed a telling precedent. He

described Avery Brundage, who was

then president of the IOC, as "a man who knew their business."

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the sparkling waters of

Geneva, Switzerland.

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